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Ukraine Objection to CIS Peacekeeping Examined

*PM2803155194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Mar 94 p 3*

[Maksim Yusin report: "New Clash Between Russian and Ukrainian Diplomats—This Time in New York. Despite Kiev's Objections, the CIS Receives Observer Status in the United Nations"]

[Text] Debates at the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, which has resumed in New York, were marked by yet another clash between Moscow and Kiev. In the last two years the world has managed to get used to the fact that the two largest Slav states appear in the role of antagonists in international forums with enviable constancy.

The discussion of the question of conferring UN observer status on the CIS was no exception. Vladimir Khandogiy, the Ukrainian representative, issued a hard-hitting statement that took the Russian delegation by surprise. He resolutely objected to the recognition of the Commonwealth as a subject of international law and as a regional organization which could carry out peace-keeping operations.

This position radically contradicts Russia's approach. Moscow is insistently seeking international recognition of the CIS, and it was mainly thanks to its efforts that the issue of granting the Commonwealth UN observer status was included on the agenda of the 48th session.

Replying to Khandogiy's speech, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations Yuri Vorontsov stated that Ukraine's objections are "due to its being insufficiently informed on the character of the Commonwealth and the agreements between its members." In his words, the treaty which is the legal basis of the CIS' peacekeeping activity was signed between Commonwealth members—including Ukraine—20 March 1992 in Kiev.

Despite Ukraine's peculiar position, the CIS nevertheless received observer status, which as of today is possessed by three regional organizations—the European Union, the Arab League, and the Organization of African Unity. The resolution to this effect was adopted by the General Assembly without a vote.

Commenting on Kiev's position, a high-ranking Russian diplomat did not rule out that Ukraine's new hardline approach is connected with the forthcoming elections to the republic parliament. By going against Moscow and once more stating their skeptical attitude to the CIS, it is possible that the Kiev authorities are counting on attracting the votes of supporters of Ukrainian independence—mainly in the republic's western oblasts.

However, Ukrainian diplomacy's New York demarche could produce an undesirable effect for Kiev in regions with a Russian-speaking population, first and foremost in the Crimea. Inhabitants of the peninsula have

received fresh confirmation that the Ukrainian leadership is not seeking rapprochement with Russia. This could fuel anti-Ukrainian sentiments and affect the results of the poll on the status of the Crimea scheduled for 27 March.

Interparliamentary Organ Seen as Powerless

*PM2903085594 Moscow TRUD in Russian
26 Mar 94 p 2*

[Olga Solomonova report under "View of Situation" rubric: "What Kind of Union in Place of the 'Inviolable' One? Notes From Interparliamentary Assembly Session"]

[Text] The fourth plenary session of the Interparliamentary Assembly [IPA] of the CIS states was held in St. Petersburg last week.

The assembly legally came into being two years ago, when the speakers of the parliaments of seven countries of the former Union signed an agreement setting up the IPA. In actual fact, however, it came into being last year. But I believe that the Russian Supreme Soviet's stormy activity last year overshadowed everything, leaving in the memory of readers no definite attitude toward the international parliamentary organ.

To all appearances, the assembly is now breaking out of its zero cycle. Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the IPA Council, has very actively set about building this institution of interparliamentary cooperation—a process that is as yet unusual for the parliaments of our independent states.

What is the essence of the IPA's work? It does not adopt binding decisions, just statements, appeals, proposals, and recommendatory legislative acts relating to the CIS states' common problems. These problems are not becoming any fewer. At the same time integration processes are gathering momentum in the Commonwealth countries, and there is a growing desire for concerted actions.

Now, as distinct from 1991, positive changes in relations among the peoples of the countries of the former Union really are being felt. The Commonwealth's international organs—the Councils of the Heads of State and Government—have now been operating for more than a year. They adopt decisions and reach agreement on economic integration and recently, for example, they adopted the treaty setting up the Economic Union....

But, however many agreements presidents and governments reach, each state has its own laws, customs offices, currencies, borders, etc. It is only possible to surmount these obstacles and coordinate actions by formulating common rules and bringing the CIS countries' legislation closer together. Here the role of the IPA in joint norm-creating activity is inestimable.

"We are at the head of the legal process," Shumeyko declared, emphasizing the assembly's role in creating the Commonwealth's common legal area. Incidentally, the day after the parliamentarians' session the international conference "Civil Codes of the Commonwealth States: Harmonization and Modeling" opened in the same place, in the Taurida Palace.

But does this modeling, not to mention harmonization, do any good for people?

Only in the long term. The assembly's chairman believes that it must get down in earnest to elaborating social policy and prepare some common document like the social charter of the Commonwealth states, which would clearly designate a unified system of social guarantees for citizens living in the CIS.

Here there is also the problem of refugees, the possibility of free movement from one state to another, the ensuring of personal safety and safeguarding of property, the prevention of any discrimination whatever when employing people and paying them, guarantees of pension provision when changing the country of residence, etc.

What, after all, was decided at the assembly's last session, in which delegations from the parliaments of eight Commonwealth countries participated: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belorussia [Belarus], Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], Russia, and Tajikistan?

The parliamentarians adopted 17 decrees: on the IPA's role and tasks in strengthening the Commonwealth, on peacemaking actions, the drafting of a model civil code, legal backup for the ecological safety of internal reservoirs, recognition of higher education diplomas, on the drafting of legislative acts in the fight against crime, on a list of recommendatory legislative acts governing economic relations within the framework of the Economic Union, etc.

Just one of the drafts proposed by the IPA Council—on the impermissibility of a blockade of Commonwealth members—was not adopted. This happened because of disagreements between the parliamentary delegations from Azerbaijan and Armenia. But it is assumed that at the next session it will be possible to reach a consensus on this question too, since a special commission has been set up to work it out under the chairmanship of M. Sherimkulov, speaker of the Kirghiz Supreme Council.

A question naturally arises: If all the decisions the assembly adopts are of a recommendatory nature, then surely its activity cannot have serious consequences?

It is hard to say whether there will be any practical benefit from these decrees. Not only is the assembly not able to influence the CIS governments and parliaments by virtue of its consultative nature, but neither does it have a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of its own decisions.

This is undoubtedly the chief difficulty—to embody even some of the decrees in legislation. There is no need to recall the difficulty with which laws are adopted in the Russian parliament and, evidently, in others too. How much more difficult is it to bring closer together the lawmaking processes in national parliaments? No mechanisms, no experience.... But without this, all the noble impulses of the heads of state and government will remain just good intentions. The Economic Union will run the risk of remaining a paper union only.

The IPA's headquarters in the Taurida Palace could become a factory of legislative daydreams unless a different status is accorded this norm-creating process.

In the opinion of observers, the assembly at present is merely a good platform for contacts among parliamentarians and communication among the political elites of the CIS, something like a corridor of trust.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 March

LD2903080094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0639 GMT 29 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on Kazakhstan president's visit and Russo-Kazakh summit talks:

"Already now one can speak about a new quality of Russia-Kazakhstan relations. Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is, perhaps, the strongest politician among CIS presidents, proved to the Kremlin these months which are far from being a honeymoon, that it is necessary for Russian to reckon with him. [sentence as received]

"Besides, experts united in praising the successes of the Kazakhstan president's Western tours, including his visit to the United States.

"Of course, there is a way to 'neutralise' Nazarbayev by undermining stability in his country—and some in Moscow already tried to do that.

"However, no other country in the world should be more interested in a strong and stable Kazakhstan than Russia, since the newly-independent state has become the most reliable buffer between Russian and explosive Central Asia.

"It is now Kazakhstan, not Russia, that 'keeps the shield' between Europe and Asia while setting an example of well-wishing cooperation between the two continents on one territory".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on Nazarbayev's visit:

"Life itself unavoidably prompts our two countries to cooperate. If the leaders of Russia and Kazakhstan succeed in laying a political basis for joint work, transnational financial-and-industrial groups may well

become the locomotive which will haul the economies of the two countries from the crisis."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) on the Baykonur future:

"The social welfare sector functions and spacecraft are launched due to Russia's space defence forces. The world-known space port is almost completely maintained by Russia.

"But it is noteworthy that while Russia has been maintaining Baykonur, Kazakhstan was conducting negotiations on how to entice either the United States or Ukraine into leasing it. It was not fortuitous that at first there was talk in Alma Ata [Almaty] that the 1992 agreement does not accord with Kazakhstan's interests. Later on, there emerged an idea of establishing an international consortium on the basis of Baykonur with no prospects for Russia's advantages either over ex-Soviet republics or the other space-faring nations headed by the U.S."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on a Cossack picketing of Kazakhstan embassy:

"The Cossack Union arranged the picketing of the embassy of Kazakhstan. The picketing coincided with Nursultan Nazarbayev's arrival in Moscow. B. Suprunyuk, leader of the Russian Community of Northern Kazakhstan, and V. Latynin, ataman (chieftain) of the Moscow branch of the Cossack Union, handed over a message, addressed to the presidents of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, to the embassy.

"The message points out in particular that participants in a recent roundtable meeting in Omsk on the subject 'the problems of the Russians in Kazakhstan and of Kazakhs in Russia' believe that Kazakh laws and the constitution have wrongfully divided the country's law in provisions concerning the 'indigenous' and 'non-indigenous' population. The Russians in that republic are denied dual citizenship. Kazakhstan is the world's only country where the activities of the Russian community, Cossack and Slavic associations are banned juridically."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Russian First Lady Naina Yeltsin who said, in particular: "Reading newspapers, one gathers the impression that Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] does not want people to live a better and easier life. But how can this be done for everyone and at once? Who will find a magic way to turn millions of people into millionaires? Alas, no such programmes have been suggested".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the Komsomolets nuclear-powered submarine which sank in the Norwegian Sea five years ago:

"A radiation disaster in the Norwegian Sea is more than probable. This is an ecological time-bomb which may go off in a matter of days, not months or weeks.

"In the event of multiple discharges of plutonium from the sunken submarine's nuclear missiles—such discharges may continue for several years—strong underwater currents, which in the area reach a speed of 1.5 metre per second and which change their course several times a day, would lead to a rapid contamination of several thousand square kilometres of the seabed. Considering that plutonium's period of semi-decay is 24,000 years, the sea in that sector would turn out to be unfit for fisheries over a span of 600-700 years".

TRUD runs an interview with Yuriy Shchapov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Economic Reform, who said as follows: "People who are now in power at all levels do not want, naturally, to lose it. What can they do to secure that? First of all, to impose a state of emergency and introduce a dictatorship. The president is unlikely to become a dictator....

"The second way is to stir up inter-regional conflicts which may lead to a civil war. Neither the former nor the latter should be allowed to happen."

PRAVDA on coup rumours in Russia:

"A coup scenario has been regarded too gravely in the top echelons of power in Russia. Political detection came into play right away...

"Those who assumed the emergence in their minds of designs which were read prior to realisation reacted anxiously and painfully to the coup scenario".

Talks Between Russian, Kazakh Presidents Summed Up

LD2803201594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] After the ceremony of signing Russo-Kazakh documents, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told Interfax that no political issues had been aroused around Russia's leasing the cosmodrome in Baykonur.

"The talks focused on problems concerning the maintenance of a city in the steppe where the cosmodrome's workers live. We have solved this issue. I am confident that our children and grandchildren will use Baykonur in the 21st century in the interests of both Russia and Kazakhstan," Yeltsin was quoted as saying.

For his part, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev put a special emphasis on Russia's important role in the development of Kazakhstan's scientific, technological and cultural potential. No speculation about Kazakhstan's alleged cooling towards Russia have any grounds, he added.

The two presidents signed four main documents out of 23 bilateral accords adopted as a result of the summit, including treaties on the further enhancement of economic cooperation and integration, on the strategic nuclear forces temporarily stationed in Kazakhstan, on military cooperation and a memorandum on the basic principles for the resolution of issues related to the citizenship and the legal status of Russian and Kazakh citizens residing on the territory of the other state.

Yeltsin received letters of ratification on Kazakhstan's joining the non-proliferation treaty from his Kazakh counterpart.

Yeltsin Terms Visit Successful

LD2803181794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1755 GMT 28 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin praised the results of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's first official visit to Russia as "very successful."

Meeting journalists after the ceremony of signing Russian-Kazakh bilateral agreements in the Kremlin on Monday, Yeltsin described the visit as "the first and very important official visit by the head of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Russia."

Yeltsin said Russia and Kazakhstan signed a record number of bilateral agreements. The prime ministers of the two countries and Russian and Kazakh governmental delegations signed a total of 23 bilateral agreements, including on political, economic and military cooperation.

"Russia and Kazakhstan already have the basis of bilateral relations, namely the bilateral treaty of friendship and cooperation," he continued. "But this document needs to be developed and expanded." The Russian leader said that all the documents had been prepared thoroughly and long. The agreement on the Baykonur cosmodrome had been ironed out for nearly a year.

Nazarbayev stressed that his visit "sweeps away all talks and rumours about Russia's imperial activity." Both sides had "overcome all difficulties," he added.

Commenting on the agreement on Baykonur, Nazarbayev replied that the Kazakh side "understands how important Baykonur is for Russia now," added that "Kazakhstan did not want to keep it in its pocket."

Yeltsin noted that the "difficulties which emerged in this issue were connected not with the political aspect, but mostly with the technical and economic one."

The president explained that the latter concerned primarily technical and economic support for the people living in the city of Leninsk and servicing the cosmodrome.

Under the agreement, Kazakhstan will lease the cosmodrome to Russia for 20 years with further prolongation of the term for another ten years. Russia will pay 115 million U.S. dollars to Kazakhstan annually in lease payments. The agreement also considers Baykonur Russian territory for the duration of the lease period where all Russian laws will have equal force as in the rest of Russia.

The two presidents also signed an agreement on the development of economic cooperation and integration, a memorandum of the basic principles of resolving issues concerning the civil and legal status of citizens of Kazakhstan living in Russia and Russian citizens residing in Kazakhstan, an agreement on military cooperation and an agreement on strategic nuclear forces temporarily stationed in Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev Explains Eurasian Union Proposal

LD2903122194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev told the staff of Moscow University that politicians were lagging behind their people's wish to unite.

To quote Nazarbayev, a new state entity—the Eurasian union with supra-national bodies for coordinating economic and military policies—might be created.

Such a union should have a single parliament, council of defense ministers and defense complex, and an interstate secretariat appointed by the heads of state.

Nazarbayev also said that such a union might pursue a single economic policy, have common borders, and use a supra-national currency retaining the member-states' national currencies.

The member-states would maintain good-neighborly relations with other former Soviet republics.

Nazarbayev announced that this problem had been discussed in Moscow with President Yeltsin.

Speaking about the talks, Nazarbayev emphasized that the end must be put to the tendency of accusing Russia of all mortal sins. He also said that the well-being of his republic was inextricably linked with Russia.

He pointed out that the Russian-Kazakh summit marked a new stage in the two countries' economic unification and represented an example to be followed by the other CIS countries. The agreements signed in Moscow provide for setting up financial and industrial groups and joint ventures. They also envisage measures to facilitate the movement of capital and labor between Russia and Kazakhstan, said Nazarbayev.

To quote the Kazakh president, the Russian and Kazakh defense ministries would conclude an agreement on joint planning and interaction. "In fact, a single defense system is being created," he said.

The Russian and Kazakh governments have been instructed to conclude an agreement on the utilization of military testing grounds located in Russia and Kazakhstan, said Nazarbayev.

Nazarbayev Meets With Rybkin

LD2803201494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin said that cooperation between the Russian and Kazakh parliaments should contribute to preservation of a single economic space. "We can encourage this process by lessening legislative differences," he told journalists on Monday after a meeting with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in the Kremlin residence.

"We parliamentarians should prevent the legislations of our two countries, Russia and Kazakhstan, from getting too different from each other, so that it would be difficult to unify them later," Rybkin pointed out. He expressed the opinion that "political approaches to closer cooperation, to cooperation on the basis of equal rights and mutual respect for the sovereignty of the two countries are not far away. But, let me repeat, the path to that lies through cooperation in the sphere of economy." This was the main issue of the conversation with Nursultan Nazarbayev, Rybkin said.

Soskovets on Cooperation With Kazakhstan

PM2903103794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Igor Petrov and Sergey Karkhanin: "The Russian President Devoted His First Working Day After Returning From Vacation to Talks with the Kazakhstan

Leader. Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev Show the CIS Leaders How To Restore Economic Ties on a New Basis"]

[Text] The Russian-Kazakhstan talks in the Kremlin began with a one-on-one conversation between Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev. The presidents were then joined by the two countries' state delegations, which include Premiers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Sergey Tereschenko. A large package of Russian-Kazakhstani agreements are expected to be signed as a result of the talks.

It is planned that Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev will sign a Treaty on Military Cooperation, a Treaty on the Further Deepening of Economic Cooperation and Integration Between Kazakhstan and Russia, a Treaty on the Basic Principles for Resolving Questions Linked with the Civil and Legal Status of Citizens of Kazakhstan Permanently Resident on Russian Territory and of Citizens of Russia Permanently Resident on Kazakhstan Territory, and an agreement between the two countries on the basic principles and conditions governing the utilization of the Baykonur space center. Around a score of documents relating to military and technical cooperation, the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, and cooperation in the fields of the economy, science, culture, and legal relations are expected to be signed at head of government level. A total of 22 documents are scheduled to be signed as a result of the talks.

"The basis of our mutual relations is the treaty concluded in May 1992," Tair Mansurov, Kazakhstan ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia, said in a ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI interview. "We are confident that our president's visit to Moscow will make it possible to add yet another fine page to the history of our peoples' friendship. Our common border is very nearly 6,000 km long, and 12 Russian and 6 Kazakhstani regions are located along it."

The ambassador recalled Nursultan Nazarbayev's remark that "the entire population of Kazakhstan is Russian-speaking," adding that the Kazakhstan leader regards relations with Russia as a priority. As for the Baykonur problem, about which there has been much argument recently, Tair Mansurov's view is that the space center must be preserved as an enormous achievement of scientific and technical thinking and it must operate in the interests of Russia and Kazakhstan alike.

Economic cooperation, which must be developed and deepened, remains the foundation of cooperation between the two countries. As the ambassador said, one of the documents prepared for the presidents' meeting relates precisely to economic relations.

On what basis can enterprises which used to be part of a unified technological chain but, by a whim of fate, have found themselves on adjacent territories, restore their severed ties?

Russian Government First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets is absolutely confident that transnational financial and industrial groups can and must become the new basis for this. In these groups the interests of allied enterprises are not national or—even more so—political but purely economic, since they are all “interlinked” through common finances to the production of the same finished output. The financial health of each individual enterprise will be totally dependent on the successful activity of the entire financial and industrial group as a whole.

The formation of the first Russian-Kazakhstan transnational financial and industrial group based on the “Omsknefteorgsintez” production association and 14 allied enterprises is currently on the agenda. It is typical that Kazakhstan’s leaders were the first to realize the necessity and expediency of such a step and officially put a proposal to this effect to President Yeltsin. It is perfectly possible that one of the practical results of N. Nazarbayev’s visit to Moscow will be precisely the signing of a special intergovernmental agreement on this.

However, the concentration of enterprises from the two countries around “Omsknefteorgsintez” is by no means the sole opportunity for building mutually advantageous cooperation. In O. Soskovets’ view, joint work to modernize the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine could be particularly promising and mutually advantageous.

This combine, which smelted around 20 percent of all Russian steel and exported 3 million tonnes a year, was traditionally geared to obtaining raw material from Kazakhstan. “What is the point of us bringing in pellets from the Lebedinskiy Mining and Enrichment Combine and spending 14,000-15,000 rubles [R] on shipping something priced at R12,000 a tonne of when we have appropriate Kazakh enterprises with empty order books right next door? Such cooperation could benefit everybody,” the first vice premier believes.

Life itself is inexorably pushing our countries toward cooperation. And if the leaders of Russia and Kazakhstan manage to lay the political foundation for joint work, financial and industrial groups could indeed become the locomotive which will pull the two countries’ economies out of crisis.

Topics of Discussion Surveyed

PM2903091194 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in
Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[Oleg Falichev article: “Russia-Kazakhstan: Military Cooperation Acquires Treaty Basis”]

[Text] The mass media have been devoting considerable attention to the subject of Russian-Kazakhstan relations and the talks process between the two republics. And now this process has reached summit level. Kazakhstan Republic President Nursultan Nazarbayev has arrived in Moscow on an official visit. What can we expect from his meeting with the Russian president? What interstate agreements do we hope will be signed?

One of the main points of the talks is linked with the fate of the Baykonur space center, which has very recently become a bone of contention between Russia and Kazakhstan. As is known, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry attempted to “close” the matter through talks at their level. And a great deal was done during the preparatory period. But a definitive solution to the question was only found when the presidents met. Why?

It has turned out that recently relations between the two republics have not been developing in the best of ways. Or rather, not in the way people would like. Let us recall the differences of view over a unified ruble zone; the future operation of the Russian missile early warning station at Balkhash; Baykonur, which we have already mentioned.... On the one hand these contradictions are explicable. Kazakhstan is seeking to play a role in the world arena which is more autonomous and independent of Russia. And it has declared everything located on its territory to be its own property. But in terms of the Baykonur space center, let us recall that its status was defined by an intergovernmental agreement of 2 October 1992. At that time Russia, in the shape of the Defense Ministry and the Russian Space Agency, committed itself to provide 94 percent of the funding of Baykonur and Leninsk. In 1993 the Russian Federation spent 47 billion rubles on keeping these two facilities going. At a time when the Kazakhstan side was unable to ensure full and prompt payment of the other 6 percent.

Today it is thanks to the Russian Military-Space Forces that the social sphere operates and spacecraft are launched. The world famous space facility is financially maintained by Russia. But do you want to know something interesting? While Russia was maintaining Baykonur, Kazakhstan was holding talks on how either the United States or Ukraine might be enticed to lease it. It was no coincidence that Alma-Ata [Almaty] started by saying that the 1992 agreement did not match Kazakhstan’s interests. And then came the idea of creating a Baykonur-based international consortium in which no provision was made for advantages for Russia not only vis-a-vis the former republics of the USSR but even in terms of other space powers headed by the United States. Furthermore, according to an ITAR-TASS report, some kind of agreement on the joint use of Baykonur was signed during Nazarbayev’s visit to the United States. Although the details are not being made public, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry’s recent visit to Alma-Ata and Baykonur indirectly confirmed the two sides’ definite joint interest.

As for Russia, it—and others—was eventually offered a lease on the space center, but on what were in fact unacceptable terms. In terms of both cost—billions of dollars—and the length of the lease. And although the positions of the sides changed several times in the course of the preliminary talks, a compromise on the main issue was not found until the last moment. Nevertheless Russia, as we were told at the press center of the Russian Federation Military-Space Forces, whose representatives

have participated in the talks process at various times, is still ready to lease the Baykonur space center. But not on just any terms.

It is no surprise that as a result of the uncertainty which has been generated this unique ground complex with a developed infrastructure has found itself without an owner and is now in a sorry state. Some of the launch equipment is unusable, some things have simply been stolen. Lower-story apartment windows gape blindly....

Nevertheless there has recently been perceptible movement in the Russian and Kazakhstani positions, facilitated by an active process of negotiation—visits by a Russian Federation delegation to Kazakhstan and by a Kazakhstani delegation to Moscow. Nor is it possible to disregard the fact that the Baykonur problem comes into the context of the military-political and military cooperation treaty between Russia and Kazakhstan which is being prepared for signing. In the course of Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev's visit to Kazakhstan mutual understanding was reached on Russia's utilization of some Baykonur facilities to implement defense-space programs taking account of Kazakhstan's interests. Including long-term programs, some of which are tied in to Russian accords with foreign countries and are geared to the utilization of precisely Baykonur.

The mid-march return visit to Moscow by a Kazakhstan state delegation headed by Premier Sergey Tereshchenko was also devoted to seeking compromise. On this occasion talks were held with members of Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin's cabinet. The discussions covered military and military-technical cooperation, the utilization of the Baykonur space center, the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, and the deepening of relations in the field of the economy, science, culture, and law. That is, the precise questions which are scheduled for signing [as published] by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev and which figure on the agenda for the planned meeting.

As for nuclear energy problems, the technological situation at the Mangistauskiy power plant in Kazakhstan is now extremely unfavorable: Nuclear scientists consider that keeping the BN-350 reactor at a safe level is problematical. Repair work and preventive maintenance have been cut back at this, Kazakhstan's only nuclear power station. And the republic cannot manage without Russia's help here, or in the future operation of Baykonur, or in the building of a Kazakhstan petroleum pipeline to the port of Novorossiysk, or on the implementation of many other projects. So Kazakhstan and Russia have a mutual interest in considered and mutually advantageous solutions in these areas. And likewise, incidentally, in the matter of creating a unified customs area, a free trade zone, an interstate bank.... And ultimately, maybe, in creating an economic union.

As this edition of the newspaper was being signed to press the final results of the meeting between the Russian

and Kazakhstani presidents were still not known. It will take time to study and analyze the documents that have been signed.

U.S. Troops 'Have No Business' in Urals

PM2803142194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Undated statement by political parties and movements of Orenburg and Volga regions entitled "U.S. Troops Have No Business on Our Soil," published under "Letter to People's Newspaper" rubric: "Totalskiy Range Again"]

[Text] As reported in the press, Brigadier General Leonard Holder Jnr., commander of the U.S. 3d Infantry Division, has visited Totalskiy Range in Orenburg Oblast to reconnoiter the tactical exercise scheduled for July 1994 involving U.S. and Russian Federation servicemen. General P. Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, had also visited Volga Military District units a little earlier.

The following question arises: What kind of "peacekeeping" missions do the U.S. 3d Infantry and Russian 27th Divisions intend to solve jointly?

Bloody conflicts began on many republics' territories following the Soviet Union's disbandment. The Russian economy and the economies of other states formed on USSR territory ended up in a catastrophic situation. It is also alarming that the country's defense potential, created by the Soviet people's intensive labor, has been lost to a considerable extent. Meanwhile NATO countries headed by the United States are cynically flexing their military muscles. They launched missile and bomb attacks on the Iraqi people, they are issuing ultimatums to Cuba, the DPRK, and our fraternal Serbian people, they are shooting down aircraft in the Bosnian skies, and they are threatening to bomb Serb positions.

It is painful for working people of the Orenburg and Volga regions, like all Russians, to see the country's military and economic might and political authority declining in the course of reforms directed against the people. The increasing peremptoriness with which Western powers are openly interfering in Russia's internal affairs is a cause of anger and indignation to us.

The Orenburg region is turning into a kind of communal yard and a dumping ground for Western enterprises' harmful waste. Israeli, French, and Dutch enterprises have sent around 20 cars to the oblast loaded with industrial waste which is dangerous to people's health. While the authorities can reconcile themselves to such shameful phenomena, we have no intention of doing so. Sociopolitical organizations in the Orenburg and Volga regions strongly protest against the attempt to hold military exercises involving the U.S. Army in a strategically important region of Russia where the defense

industry is densely concentrated and which is the people's breadbasket. We demand that the Russian Federation president and Government cancel the Defense Ministry's plans to hold exercises on southern Urals territory. We call on the State Duma to protect working people's fundamental interests and our oblasts' peaceful life. We call on all honest patriots in the Urals and Volga region republics and oblasts to raise their voices in defense of our country's sovereignty. U.S. troops have no business on our soil!

[Signed] Orenburg Oblast Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation; Orenburg Oblast Committee of the Russian Communist Workers' Party; Orenburg Oblast organization of the Agrarian Party of Russia; Orenburg Oblast Council of Veterans; Orenburg Oblast voters' association "For Social Justice"; Orenburg Oblast Council of Workers, Peasants, and Specialists; Orenburg Oblast Political Council of the Socialist Party of Working People; Orenburg City Union of Officers; the "Working Samara" sociopolitical movement; Samara voters' association "For Social Justice"; Samara Oblast Committee of the Russian Federation Communist Party; Samara Oblast Committee of the Russian Communist Workers' Party; Samara Oblast Committee of the Congress of Soviet Women; Samara Oblast Committee of the All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League.

Ministries Respond to U.S. Budget Amendment

LD2903100194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The American Congress has adopted an amendment to the draft budget for next year. It states that the USA will resist attempts by the Russian Federation to intimidate, to use military force, or economic pressure to create a sphere of influence in the former republics of the USSR and also in the countries of central and Eastern Europe. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense of Russia responded urgently to this decision today, by issuing a joint statement. It says that Russia is not setting its efforts against anyone at all and is not demanding special status or an exclusive role for itself.

'Honeymoon' in Russian-American Relations 'Over'

LD2903094894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1022 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington March 29 TASS—The Russo-American relations are resting on a solid foundation, but their "honeymoon" is over. This is how some White House officials, who preferred to remain anonymous, have described the present state of relations between the two countries. They held a briefing for a group of Russian journalists on Monday.

The officials stressed that normal relations, and this is how, in their opinion, the current level of the Washington-Moscow dialogue can be described, do not exclude difficulties and problems. Moreover, the number of such problems and difficulties has lately increased.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about the reasons behind these difficulties, one of the White House officials said that he could only repeat what was already said in Moscow and Washington—the "honeymoon" in American-Russian relations is over. This "honeymoon" began after the end of the "cold war", he stated, and America's assessments of Russia then differed sharply from its assessments of the Soviet Union. In his opinion America had then established excessively close relations with Russia which could not be kept up. Speaking about the end of the "honeymoon", the official said he was not referring to any crisis. Normal relations envisage differences too, he said. In solving its domestic political problems Russia is again beginning to play an active role on the world arena—in Europe and the beyond its bounds. He said he believed some differences between the two countries were quite normal in these conditions.

It is an open secret that the results of the parliamentary elections in Russia were a surprise for the United States, another White House official said. The administration had closely followed the developments in Russia, but it did not foresee such an outcome, he added. The resignation of two main architects of the Russian reforms—Yegor Gaydar and Boris Fedorov—were a shock not only for many officials of the administration, but also for the congress, the press, and the American public at large. The official said that this shock was explained by the fact that America had cultivated its relations with Russia largely relying on the presence of reformers in the Russian Government. Analysing the latest events, the American side has arrived at the conclusion that strong American-Russian relations should be developed irrespective of personalities, on the basis of the mutual understanding of bilateral interests. The results of the parliamentary elections and of several events that have occurred lately on the international arena have, without doubt, increased differences in America's and Russia's approaches, but have not unsettled their bilateral relations.

Kozyrev: Joining NATO 'in Future' Not Ruled Out

LD2603160094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1358 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Report by special ITAR-TASS correspondents Vasilii Belousov and Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Murmansk, 26 Mar—We do not rule out Russia joining NATO in future, nor that this organization could undergo some transformation. But at the present time it is not a matter of bloc membership, but of cooperation. Herein lies the meaning of us joining the Partnership for Peace program, which will take place in the near future.

This was stated by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev when explaining Russia's approach to interrelations with the North Atlantic Union during a brief conversation with Russian and Norwegian journalists.

The minister also noted the contacts and ties between Russia and NATO, which are already developing; the joint Pomor-94 naval exercises that ended recently were an example of this.

Failure To Join NATO Partnership May Lead to Isolation

LD2803185594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] In the present political and military-strategic situation in the world Russia could refrain from joining the NATO program Partnership for Peace. However, Moscow would then sacrifice its partnership with NATO countries, lose initiative in military cooperation and remain an outsider to European processes. A high ranking official from the Russian Defence Ministry expressed this opinion to Interfax Monday.

He said the Russian leadership views the program as an intermediate stage in creating a new collective security system in Europe. He stressed that at the moment NATO is changing its policy of deterrence through intimidation towards Russia to deterrence through cooperation.

The official said that if Moscow joins the program it is going to press for a status in line with its significance in the world. The fact that Russia is a Eurasian nation should also be taken into account, making the CIS collective security treaty the most important matter.

He also named the main purposes of Russian participation in the program:

1. Active involvement in the formation of the new European collective security system based on equal rights and responsibilities of members.
2. The formation of an effective mechanism for preventing wars and conflicts that could serve as a prototype for the military structure of future European security.
3. The official recognition by NATO partners of the special responsibility of Russia for maintaining peace in the CIS.
4. The spreading of confidence-building measures to the military-technical sphere with the purpose of halting any new spirals of the arms race, a well-considered strategy of conversion.

The official told Interfax that none of the political or military leaders are thinking of Russian integration in NATO military structures. "We believe in the need for cooperation and interaction with the alliance in the interests of peace and the security of Europe and Russia", he said.

Yeltsin Aide, CSCE Official Discuss Ethnic Russians

LD2803193394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Max van der Stoep, high commissioner for national minorities of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), on Monday had a meeting in Moscow with Georgiy Satarov, aide to the Russian president.

A source in Satarov's office told Interfax the meeting had focused on the position of ethnic Russians in various former Soviet republics, such as the Baltic states, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Satarov said that, despite some obstacles, conditions had taken shape for solving these problems, because "the potential of political stability in the life of society has increased and good mutual understanding has been established between the Federal Assembly and the president, including on that problem."

During his three-day visit to Russia, van der Stoep, who arrived in Moscow on Monday, also plans to meet Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Minister of the Affairs of Nationalities and Regional Policy Sergey Shakhrai, and the chairmen of the parliamentary commissions on human rights and international affairs, Sergey Kovalev and Vladimir Lukin.

Churkin Leaves for Croatia-Krajina Talks

LD2803103394 Moscow Radio 101 in Russian 1000 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the president of the Russian Federation, left for Zagreb today. A POSTFAKTUM correspondent was told at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Vitaliy Churkin will take part in the second round of talks between Croatia and Serb Krajina.

Croatia, Serb Krajina Sign Six Maps

LD2903144794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The first six of 35 maps of troops separation were signed in Zagreb by negotiators representing Croatia and the self-proclaimed republic of Serb Krajina in their second round of talks that started Tuesday. The Russian diplomat who broke this news to INTERFAX said, however, that "the talks are difficult and there is no telling when the remaining documents will be signed."

The talks which are underway in the Russian Embassy in Zagreb center on a cease-fire and troops separation. Special envoys of the Russian and U.S. Presidents Vitaliy Churkin and Charles Redman are attending them as mediators as are officials of the UN and the International Peace Conference on Former Yugoslavia.

Russian Embassy Employee Killed in Algiers

LD2803183494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvyy in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Konstantin Kukukshin, an employee of the Russian Embassy, was killed today in the southern outskirts of the Algerian capital. This was reported by the country's security services. He is the fourth Russian representative killed in Algeria in the past six months.

Suspected Assassins Killed

LD2903100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0754 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Excerpt] Rabat, 29 Mar—The Algerian security forces have killed four armed men suspected of killing Konstantin Kukukshin, a driver employed at the Russian Federation Embassy. According to diplomatic sources, these men were also involved in the killing of high-ranking Algerian diplomat Belkacem Touati.

The details of the killing of the Russian representative are as yet unknown. The competent Algerian bodies are continuing their investigation of the circumstances of this act of terrorism. Local newspapers report that the Russian Embassy in Algiers has already received a number of threats from local Islamists belonging, it is suggested, to the underground "Armed Islamic Group." [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Keeping Close Watch

LD2903101094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0756 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar—The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs is keeping a close watch on the deteriorating situation in Algeria. A senior spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the Foreign Ministry is in constant contact with the Algerian side. He pointed out that the circumstances of the terrorist act against the Russian citizen are being investigated, and that exhaustive information from the Algerian side is expected on the affair.

Defense Minister Grachev Begins Visit to Romania

LD2803150494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev started his official visit to Romania on Monday. He disclosed in an exclusive interview with Interfax at a Moscow airport before his departure that during the trip he would sign an agreement for military and technical cooperation between Russia and Romania covering a five year period.

In his words, this "framework" accord provides for exchanges of defense delegations, information and other types of contacts.

He reported plans to meet with Romania's president, premier, foreign and defence ministers. In his talks with Romanian politicians Grachev intends to discuss "the military and political aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways to ensure security in Europe."

He did not rule out that the situation in Moldova and Russia's military presence in Transdnistria would be looked at during the talks with the Romanian leadership.

On Russo-Kazakh military and technical contacts, Grachev revealed that "final touches are being put to the documents agreed to by the two presidents" and voiced hope that the accords would be signed by the two leaders in Moscow at 18:30 on Friday.

In his words, the most complex issue at the negotiations with the Kazakh leadership in Moscow is that of the use of the space center at Baykonur. "So far the issue has not been resolved in full," he remarked.

However, he noted that the issue on Kazakhstan's strategic nuclear forces had been settled once and for all. In his words, according to understandings on this matter, a time-table is to be drawn up within a month for moving nuclear ammunition out of Kazakhstan to Russia and for partial compensation to be paid by Moscow for the nuclear fuel.

Nor has there been any problem to withdraw nuclear warheads from Ukraine to Russia. As Grachev put it, "there have only been a few minor points of disagreement."

Signs Military Cooperation Treaty

LD2803192994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Video report by correspondent Sergey Zheleznyak, including recorded comment by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Zheleznyak] A guard of honor welcomed the Russian defence minister in Bucharest today. Pavel Grachev's visit is evoking special interest here. I will recall that it was postponed twice, the last time because of the broad anti-Russian campaign started by the opposition last December. The cancellation of the visit obviously disappointed the official authorities at the time. For more than two years our countries did not have any agreements on military cooperation. Bucharest does not hide the fact that it sees its security only under NATO's roof. Romania was the first to sign the Partnership for Peace Treaty with it. At the same time, despite all kinds of statements on its striving toward military cooperation with the West, Romania understands perfectly well that it cannot do without an accord on military cooperation with its most powerful neighbor in the east. Today, Pavel

Grachev and Romanian Defense Minister Gheorghe Tinca discussed and signed such a document.

[Grachev] It is a comprehensive treaty that presupposes a resumption of the most normal relations with the sovereign state of Romania.

[Zheleznyak] Technical cooperation is of special interest to Romania. Its Army is equipped with artillery, tanks, aircraft, and other Soviet-made hardware. The country has no money to replace it, but spares and ammunition are needed to keep the military hardware in operational condition. The Russian defense minister plans to attend military exercises and meet the president and prime minister of Romania.

Oil To Be Supplied to Cuba in Exchange for Sugar

LD2903122494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Russia will supply 2.5 Mn tons of crude oil to Cuba in exchange for one million tons of sugar cane for federal use.

Under a Russian government ordinance of March 25, 1.5 Mn tons of this amount will be allocated from the export resources for countries outside the former Soviet Union and the remaining 1 Mn tons by reducing the amounts to be supplied to former Soviet republics by the Roskontrakt corporation.

The state customer of the Cuban deliveries is the Foreign Trade Ministry which will determine the actual suppliers shortly. The supplies will be financed from extra-budgetary sources.

Meanwhile, the total amount of oil to be exported for federal needs will be increased by 1 Mn tons to a total of 26 Mn tons in 1994.

Panov Presents New Korean Initiative

LD2903140394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1228 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar—The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has advanced a new proposal aimed at achieving the earliest possible settlement of the situation on the Korean peninsula. Speaking at a news conference today, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov announced that Russia is prepared, and regards it as expedient, to conduct "informal consultations" to prepare an international conference on this problem. The Russian Foreign Ministry last week put forward an initiative to hold such a conference with the participation of Russia, China, the United States, Japan, the DPRK, and the ROK, as well as representatives of the UN secretary general and the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Aleksandr Panov

noted that Russia's proposal is currently being closely studied by all interested parties, and none of them has so far responded to it negatively.

According to the Russian diplomat, consultations on preparations for an international conference could begin in Moscow in the near future. It is expected that each side could put forward its stand at these consultations.

A. Panov stressed that the Russian side starts from the premise that the conference, if it is held, should be thoroughly prepared. Issues for discussion must be drawn up taking account of the interests of both sides. In the view of the Russian diplomat, the problem of "how to ensure the nonnuclear status of the Korean peninsula" should be one of the foremost issues. The issue of confirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Korean states, maintaining noninterference in their internal affairs, and ensuring their freedom of choice of paths of social development should also be discussed. The Russian diplomat believes that a way out of the present situation can be found within the framework of such a multifaceted approach, which supplements steps that are already being taken.

A. Panov stressed that the Russian initiative has already played a positive part. In his view, "the furor over this problem has recently abated somewhat," and "an alternative that can be worked on" has emerged.

Touching on the issue of the venue for an international conference on the problem of the Korean peninsula, the Russian diplomat said that so far proposals have come in for it to begin work in Geneva, and then subsequently to be held by turns in Pyongyang and Seoul.

Korean Group Demands End to 'Provocation'

PM2803151594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 3

[Untitled "Own Information" report]

[Text] The Russian Association of Koreans "Bomminren" has made a statement in connection with recent events concerning the Korean peninsula which, due to the United States, have assumed a dangerous character.

Just recently, the statement says, the public greeted with satisfaction the news of an agreement being reached on a comprehensive solution for the so-called Korean nuclear question. Then suddenly the alarming news broke that the American side, using its dominant position in the International Atomic Energy Agency, had broken off all these agreements and made blunt threats against the DPRK which were accompanied by a stream of lies and slander aimed at North Korea. By so doing the United States and its allies revealed their true plans: Using the situation which had developed, they planned to slander and strangle the socialist state on Korean soil and prevent Korea's peaceful unification.

The Russian association "Bomminren" resolutely condemns the Americans' plans. On behalf of the many thousands of Koreans living in various countries outside of Korea it demands that the row and provocation connected with the so-called nuclear question on the Korean peninsula be stopped.

Editorial Blames U.S. for Korean Tension

*PM2903101794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
29 Mar 94 p 3*

[Andrey Krushinskiy report under "Asian Crossroads" rubric: "Third Front in the Pacific?"]

[Text] Beijing—Until recently the political barometer of the Pacific region, unlike in mother Europe with its "NATO umbrella," indicated "fine." But then the atmosphere here too clouded over thanks to the Washington leaders of the "civilized society," who contrived to start a quarrel with both China and Japan at once. Now Clinton's "third front" in the Pacific is becoming apparent—the DPRK.

It is a small state in terms of its potential and cannot, of course, be compared with the two aforementioned very influential Asian and world powers but, on the other hand, the acuteness of the conflict here is far greater: Whereas in the first two cases we are talking of an economic war, in the third the rattling of sabers can be heard.

On 21 March IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] Director General Blix declared that his agency was not demanding sanctions against the DPRK and that it did not possess any proof that North Korea had violated an international regulation in the sphere of nuclear technologies. But Clinton, as though wishing at all costs to outdo everyone, including both the IAEA and the United Nations, hastened to accounce that very day that he had already made the decision to station Patriot missile systems in South Korea.

But what, in fact, started it all? The Korean "nuclear crisis" seemed to have been settled three weeks ago. A kind of diplomatic deal had been concluded between official representatives of the DPRK and the United States under whose terms the DPRK was to admit IAEA inspectors to its nuclear installations in "exchange" for the U.S. abandonment of the Team Spirit maneuvers in South Korea and of the stationing of its missiles there and, in addition, for consent to hold top-level talks between Washington and Pyongyang in Geneva.

As for the DPRK, a group of international experts received the appropriate visas and inspected all seven of North Korea's stipulated nuclear installations 1 through 15 March. The inspectors discovered nothing untoward attesting to the military thrust of research. A slight argument with recriminations did, however, occur: The North Korean side reckoned that the IAEA experts had committed a number of violations of their previously

stipulated inspection methods. But the experts reckoned for their part that they had not been granted sufficient opportunities to take samples at one of the seven installations—the radiochemical laboratory at Yongbyon.

Who is more right here? Let us assume it is the IAEA inspectors. This would mean that the DPRK fulfilled its pledges in the deal with the United States not 100 percent but only 99 percent. Or maybe even just 85 or 75 percent. But what of the United States? It did not fulfill its pledges. It canceled the talks in Geneva, Team Spirit will very soon make the Korean Peninsula resound with the clank of caterpillar tracks and the explosion of shells, and they are threatening to deploy the Patriots even in April. And Russia signs nuclear disarmament agreements with such a partner?

It is totally absurd that the world press at once, as though on a command, began demonizing not the United States but the DPRK, portraying it as a rogue and disturber of the peace. Not, alas, without the complicity of the Russian mass media.

China's position is characterized by soundness, clarity, and prudence. As a state which has signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, State Council Premier Li Peng declared at a news conference in Beijing 22 March, the PRC does not support or encourage their proliferation. China constantly advocates resolving the question of a nuclear inspection in the DPRK by means of talks and does not approve of the use of pressure. Because not only will this not help to resolve the question, it will merely complicate and exacerbate the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The positions of Russia and Japan are not clear. Will the former venture to demonstrate independence, as happened recently in respect of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina? Is the latter aware that, if the transoceanic "cowboy" is permitted to make such a commotion in Korea, his "lasso" will tighten itself primarily around Japan's own body?

Official Denies Islands Ceded to China

*LL/2803151494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415
GMT 28 Mar 94*

[Text] A Russian official has denied media reports saying that a number of islands on the Amur, Ussuri and Argun rivers have been ceded to China.

The question of border demarcation on the Bolshoy Ussuriy and Tarabarov Islands close to Khabarovsk and the Bolshoy Island on the Argun River is not yet on the agenda, Colonel Aleksandr Filonov of the joint commission for border delineation in the Far Eastern Border District told Interfax.

He said Russia and China had agreed on further discussion of the issue but that in the meantime, the disputed territory would remain under Russian jurisdiction.

Political Issues

Mrs. Yeltsin Insists President Healthy

PM2903085194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 94 pp 1-2

["Exclusive" interview with Russian President B. Yeltsin's wife Naina Yeltsina in Sochi by Gennadiy Bochkarev; date not given: "Conversation With President's Wife in Ready-to-Wear Store"]

[Text] My telephone rang, and although the caller was not phoning long-distance, the operator for some reason asked: "Is that...." "Yes," I replied. "Naina Iosifovna will talk to you now."

A few days ago I sent a letter to the Russian president's dacha in Sochi asking Naina Yeltsina to give KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA an interview. Who but his wife knows more about the president's health than any television news broadcasts? Who if not the closest person to the president is most concerned about his health?

We spoke on the telephone in "purely human terms." I did not ask her the routine questions about Boris Nikolayevich's weaknesses, but simply listened to a woman who has grown tired of gossip and seems to have gotten confused.

She sighed: "Boris Nikolayevich is very patient with all these false commentaries. He says: They'll get over it; pay no attention. But how can you help paying attention when someone is constantly poking their nose into your home? There is no defense against gossip, and sometimes I want to go out onto the street and scream: 'Think again. Why is that so hard to do!'"

We met with Naina Iosifovna in a Sochi fashion house's store. The president's wife was buying gifts for her daughters and grandchildren. She is very fond of Sochi knitwear. As she met me Naina Yeltsina smiled and said: "Go ahead, ask your questions."

[Bochkarev] Naina Iosifovna, excuse me, but I cannot wait to ask you this: Is it true that the Yeltsin family's favorite singer is Filipp Kirkorov? I read that somewhere.

[Yeltsina] I don't know who wrote that. Boris Nikolayevich has hardly heard Filipp Kirkorov at all, although I know some of his songs. But you would do better to ask us before talking about the Yeltsin family's taste in music. I like modern music, but there is no accounting for taste. Not everyone in our family likes Filipp Kirkorov's songs.

[Bochkarev] The president's family recently held a housewarming. How are things at the new home?

[Yeltsina] We have not moved in yet, but there is a host of varied rumors about our coming move. Actually, we are changing accommodations for security reasons. Our

next-door neighbors in our old block sold their apartment and I don't even know who bought it. It seems to be some commercial organization.

[Bochkarev] Is it that easy to buy an apartment next door to the president?

[Yeltsina] There seems to be no difficulty in doing so.

[Bochkarev] Naina Iosifovna, do you personally support the president's policy?

[Yeltsina] Tell me, has your life personally changed for the worse?

[Bochkarev] I suppose not.

[Yeltsina] You know that we talk to our friends. Believe me, they are not top-ranking officials; they are ordinary people, and none of them is complaining. I was in Sverdlovsk, now Yekaterinburg, and I cannot say that life has deteriorated there. Some people have it hard, some people have a difficult life. But things are no worse! In my opinion, people have received the most important thing—freedom. No one harasses you now and you have an opportunity to earn as much money as you are capable of earning. And you can buy everything you want. Look back over the decades: When did we have such plentiful supplies in the stores? People still say that 80 percent of Russians are below the poverty line. Do the other 20 percent really buy up everything? Who believes that the businessmen in our vast country have directed their attention to only 20 percent of the population?

[Bochkarev] Are you speaking as the president's wife?

[Yeltsina] Why are we here? When you read the newspapers you get the impression that Boris Nikolayevich does not want people to lead a better, easier life. How can this be accomplished for everyone at once? Who is going to find a magic way of making millions of people millionaires at a stroke? Regrettably, programs of that kind are not on offer. Regrettably, no one mentions the fact that the situation in Russia is more favorable than it is in the other republics of the former Union. That does not fit in with the opposition's scenario. The president would probably be far more successful if there were not the constant confrontation in society.

[Bochkarev] Naina Iosifovna, do you feel like Russia's first lady?

[Yeltsina] I am the president's wife. I am by his side, and naturally we discuss some problems at home, but I never try to influence his decisionmaking.

[Bochkarev] As a rule presidents' wives are involved in charity foundations.

[Yeltsina] I don't head any foundations. I think that people have simply gotten themselves well fixed up in some of them....

I am very worried about the lamentable state of children's health care. If equipment for a children's hospital is offered as a gift, for instance, during official visits abroad, it is a sin to refuse.

[Bochkarev] Don't you think that, when these protocol gifts are handed over, the children come to look like an honor guard at official meetings? We came, we gave, we forgot....

[Yeltsin] Following what you call these protocol gifts, I know that in at least one specific hospital a doctor can save a child's life. What difference does it make how this equipment got there—by protocol or otherwise?

[Bochkarev] Tell me, do you call your husband Boris Nikolayevich at home?

[Yeltsin] Are you joking? I just call him Borya.

[Bochkarev] Does the president ask his family for the latest news "from the people"?

[Yeltsin] Naturally, our children work in normal collectives where they discuss politics and the economy with their colleagues, but none of us has managed to tell Boris Nikolayevich a piece of news that he did not know.

[Bochkarev] Naina Iosifovna, now we come to the last and perhaps most sensitive question: How is your husband feeling?

[Yeltsin] No country in the world speculates as much as we do about the president's health. He is indeed healthy! He came to Sochi, he has had a change of scene [smenil obstanovku], and that is as good as a vacation. He has played tennis and swum in the sea. Is that really a basis for gossip to spread around the world? What ailments haven't they devised for the president. If he gets the flu, that means he is seriously ill; if he's working at home, he's ill again. Boris Nikolayevich is not the enemy of his own health, and if he were seriously ill he would long since have quit his job. All this talk of illness is dirty politics. Why have they suddenly caused this sensation? Because 1996 is approaching and they have to somehow prove that Boris Nikolayevich is a sick man. But, believe me, any gossip is easier to bear than lies about his health....

Work on Civil Accord Draft Agreement Completed

LD2803195394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The work on the draft agreement on civic peace in Russia was completed last Saturday and the document will soon be submitted to President Boris Yeltsin. This was disclosed to Interfax on Monday by a member of the drafting team.

The source said that the document suggests renouncing early elections, potentially destabilizing constitutional amendments and the politically charged comments on the events of October 1993.

The draft reportedly includes the formation of a public body to ensure all sides observe the agreement. It should be signed by federal government bodies, federation members, parliamentary groups, political movements, public organizations and trade unions.

If the terms are violated by any party, they will be asked to leave the political arena.

At the initiative of the president the document was drafted by five working groups on the following spheres: politics, economy, regional and ethnic matters, culture, security.

Earlier on Monday a well-informed source close to the president told Interfax that the final text of the draft agreement will be handed to Yeltsin within the next few hours.

Yeltsin Examining Draft Agreement

LD2903124294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1138 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar—The eight-page draft Agreement on Achieving Civil Accord in Russia was handed over today for study by Boris Yeltsin. Work on completion of this document could take "a week or more," since the president attaches great importance to it in stabilizing society. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by the president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov.

After it has been worked on, the document will possibly become more compact. The president will evidently include his own observations, delete minor points, and send the draft for correction by a working group, the press secretary reported. He added that Boris Yeltsin "would not want the Agreement on Achieving Civil Accord to appear as an abbreviated version of the Constitution."

Vyacheslav Kostikov reported "the document will also undergo approval in political circles. In particular, Boris Yeltsin discussed the draft agreement today with Federal Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeiko."

We remind you that the text of this document, on the instructions of the head of state, has been worked on since 10 March by a working group composed of representatives of the administration of the president, the government, parliamentary factions, political parties, and trades unions.

Civil Accord Draft Outlined

MK2903073594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 3

[Veronika Kutsyllo, Marat Salimov report: "President Returns to the Kremlin. Boris Yeltsin Focuses on Peace and Food"]

[Excerpt] Leaving Sochi on Sunday, the president singled out three objectives of primary importance that he is going to deal with right upon his return to Moscow—the completion of the work on the mechanisms of implementing the presidential message to the parliament, the drafting of an agreement on civil peace, and the revision of new customs tariffs with a view to lowering them. KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned that a draft agreement, which had been drawn up by a group under Boris Topornin, director of the Institute of State and Law, was presented to Boris Yeltsin yesterday. Work on the mechanisms of implementing the presidential message is going on. As for food importers, they will apparently have to be patient.

Boris Yeltsin To Revise Civil Peace Agreement

"Version No. 0" of the Agreement on Civil Peace and Accord, which had been drawn up by Boris Topornin's group (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 26 March), was seriously revised last weekend. According to unofficial reports, the text of the draft agreement (which, in the drafters' view, should not be made public before it is studied by the president) has been cut to nearly one-half of its original size: many declaratory provisions, already set forth in the Constitution and Russian laws, have been deleted.

There have been qualitative changes, too. The latest version of the "universal peace pact" as of yesterday no longer included the term "Third-Party Public Court," which, under initial plans, was to be made responsible for monitoring the implementation of the agreement and vested with the right publicly to demand that violators be removed from office or give up their deputy powers voluntarily. Now these functions have been given to the Conciliatory Commission, to be made up of representatives of the president, the government, State Duma factions, and political activists, and designed to work out mechanisms of the phased implementation of the agreement.

The working group has decided that a two-year moratorium on amending the Constitution should not be included in the draft and that it will be replaced with the proposal that "changes destabilizing the situation in society not be made to the Constitution." Provisions regarding the moratorium on changing the status of regions and concluding bilateral treaties between them and the federal authorities have been retained, as has the trade unions' obligation not to call strikes for the purpose of reallocating budget revenues.

It is hard to predict how much time Boris Yeltsin will need to comprehend the draft agreement and with which provisions of it he may disagree. At the same time, the question of the sequence of signing the agreement has not yet been resolved, and the Public Chamber's meeting to discuss it, initially scheduled for 2 April, will be postponed at least for a week, KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Confers With Stepashin on Security Issues *LD2903112694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1048 GMT 29 Mar 94*

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—President of Russia Boris Yeltsin today held a meeting in the Kremlin with Sergey Stepashin, the chairman of the Russian Federation Counterintelligence Service, the Russian president's press secretary reported.

During the conversation, which lasted for 40 minutes, they discussed general issues of Russian security and also current business of the counterintelligence service. The Russian president stressed the need for a strong and professional special service defending the interests of Russia and the democratic state. He pointed out the need to enhance the efficiency of the counterintelligence service.

Sergey Stepashin briefed the president on the progress and initial findings of the investigation into the appearance and publication of the so-called "Version No 1", about preparations for a coup d'etat, and those involved in this falsification. The Federal Counterintelligence Service and Procuracy have set up a joint group to complete the investigation. According to existing information, the Russian Federation Procuracy has launched criminal proceedings in connection with the case for defamation (Article 130 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code).

Guidelines on FCS Issued

LD2903145094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] will be a central body of the federal state authority engaged in identifying, preventing and defeating the intelligence and subversive activities by foreign special services and organizations and of maintaining the constitutional order, sovereignty, territorial integrity and defense capability of the country. These are the main points of guidelines on the FCS that were approved by President Boris Yeltsin.

The counterintelligence service will hire 75,000 personnel. This figure does not include research, military, medical and logistics staff. The FCS management staff will include 1500 men and women. Its collegium will consist of 11 members.

The FCS will report directly to the Russian president.

Its functions will include:

- detecting, preventing and thwarting the intelligence and subversive activities of special services and organizations against the Russian Federation;
- collection of intelligence on threats to the security of the Russian Federation;

- providing information to the Russian president on threats to Russian security;
- combatting terrorism, illicit trafficking of weapons and narcotic drugs, illegal militias and illegally set up or banned organizations that threaten the constitutional order of the country;
- maintaining, within its sphere of competence, the Russian Federation's official secrets;
- counterintelligence support for the protection of the Russian Federation's state border.

In matters concerning the search for criminals Russian border guards will follow the orders of the FCS.

The FCS collegium will consider and make decisions on most important issues in the activities of counterintelligence. The collegium decisions will be taken by a majority of votes. In the case of differences between the FCS director and the collegium the director's decision will be carried and he will let the president know about the differences. The collegium members will also be able to let the head of state know their opinion.

The Russian Federation's president will supervise the activities of the FCS and counterintelligence bodies.

Yeltsin, Shumeyko Discuss Federation Council, Economy

LD2903125094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and speaker of the Federation Council had a meeting in the Kremlin on Tuesday. Current political, organisational and personnel problems have been discussed, Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, told ITAR-TASS. Shumeyko informed the president about the activity of the Federation Council. Special attention was given to the work on the agreement "on the achievement of civil concord". Ways of its coordination and signing were discussed.

During the discussion of economic aspects, Yeltsin expressed concern with possible negative consequences of the government's decision on customs duties, also for broad sections of the population. The president said he had discussed the matter with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and they had arrived at a consensus about the need for adjustment on a number of important aspects, without discarding the principle of reasonable protectionism regarding Russian manufacturers and dealers.

Yeltsin mentioned the possibility of holding meetings of the Russian Federation's Security Council with the participation of heads of chambers of the Federal Assembly.

The president said this would widen a political base of decision-making on important problems having the bearing on security.

Ways of settling the Ossetian-Ingush conflict were also discussed during the meeting.

Zhirinovskiy Dismisses Rutskoy as Presidential Rival

LD2903130294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1211 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy does not consider that Aleksandr Rutskoy will pose any competition to him in future presidential elections, the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader told a press conference at the State Duma today. He is convinced that "the electorate will not vote for Rutskoy."

According to Zhirinovskiy, the State Duma faction led by him "was the main instrument is getting adopted the political amnesty" which freed A. Rutskoy and other organizers of the October events in Moscow. However, the LDPR leader complained that "not all of those who got out of jail have shown themselves grateful to the LDPR."

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said that the LDPR's 5th congress starts on 2 April. with representatives of 20 Slav states taking part. He claimed that on its second day, the congress "will be turned into a congress of the Slav peoples."

Main Contenders for 1996 Presidency Viewed

PM2803200594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Mar 94 pp 1,4

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Boris Yeltsin Launches Presidential Election Campaign. Group of Favorites Well-Known. Appearance of 'Dark Horse' Unlikely"]

[Text] In an interview that Boris Yeltsin gave IZVESTIYA late last week, the head of state confirmed his determination to hold national presidential elections in 1996. One can conclude from what he said that the Russian president only sees himself taking part in these elections as a voter. Thus, there is every reason to conclude that last Friday [25 March], B. Yeltsin effectively announced the start of a two-year presidential race.

At the same time other, albeit less important, events last week make it possible to speak of a new political situation that is developing in the country today and in which the election campaign will most likely be held, and also to talk about the most likely favorites.

These events include the continuing scandal over the anonymous coup d'état scenario, A. Shokhin's appointment to oversee the economy [kurator ekonomiki], the developing squabble over the new customs duties on imported agricultural produce, and the State Duma's proposal to stage a vote of no-confidence in the government,

Analysis of all these and other events gives grounds for the following conclusion: The structuring of the main political forces is coming to an end in Russia. It is not the clash of individual political figures' personal interests and ambitions that is starting to have overwhelming importance in politics (although that does still happen), but the clash of group interests, and it is only as a result that conflicts arise between the politicians that voice these interests.

For instance, the Moscow mayor's continuing attacks on the government do not mean that Yu. Luzhkov personally cannot bear A. Zaveryukha. There has been an obvious clash of interests on the one hand between the agrarian lobby led by the vice premier and national commercial capital on the other led by the Moscow mayor.

Things are roughly the same regarding the scandal over the coup scenario. For some reason, observers who have discussed this subject have failed to notice a strange coincidence: The scandal precisely coincided not only with the president's vacation, but also with the end of the work to finalize the draft federal budget. Although you might recall that it was the president's refusal to sign the proinflationary budget law adopted by the former Supreme Soviet that preceded his decision to sign Edict 1400. As you know, the current draft federal budget severely infringes the interests of the military-industrial complex and a considerable proportion of the processing industry. Reports from informed sources indicate that serious conflicts have arisen over this between V. Chernomyrdin, who champions, as you know, the interests of the fuel and energy complex, and O. Soskovets and Yu. Skokov. Although in the past V. Chernomyrdin had put forward O. Soskovets for first vice prime minister. All these names feature among the coup scenario's top men. It is therefore logical to at least conclude that the appearance of the provocative pamphlets was highly opportune.

A. Shokhin's appointment late last week to head the economy, a post vacant following Ye. Gaydar's resignation, must obviously be regarded as the final round of the squabble. An effective counterbalance has been created in the person of the minister of the economy to the first vice premier who voices the interests of the industrial and military-industrial lobby, interests that are incompatible with those of the oil and gas lobby.

Presumably following the president's announcement opening the election campaign, the fighting over the budget will worsen still further since some of the money

that has been channeled into economic sectors as a result will be used by rival groups to conduct the presidential campaign.

The impressive force of Russian banking capital did not stay aloof from political life last week either. The "12 December" parliamentary group, which voices the interests of some banking circles, declared B. Fedorov as its leader. Its former leaders—A. Braginskiy and I. Khakamada—have become the group's deputy leaders. Here, too, we can see that interests are being structurally formulated.

It is thus easy to conclude that a new stage of development is starting for Russian postcommunist society. Society is becoming increasingly structured. The lone politicians whose personal abilities recently enabled them to soar to the Russian political heights are becoming a thing of the past, giving way to figures backing the interests of departments, economic sectors, and, lastly, major social strata. In this respect it is no accident that we are seeing many political "stars" wane. It is not individuals, but political-economic groups that have joined the fight for power and are forming society's political infrastructure.

At the moment this struggle is not being conducted in an entirely civilized manner. Not by means of rivalry between parliamentary parties and the formation of a coalition government, but rather by lobbying, by putting pressure on top state officials. To make up for it the first positive factor in this new stage for Russia, where everything is always unpredictable, seems indisputable: The actions of leaders trying to influence the choice of the country's political and economic course are becoming predictable. Since the interests of the groups behind them are predictable. The time of political intrigues seems to be passing for Russia and the time of serious politicians is coming. And this in turn means that it is unlikely that a "dark horse" will appear among the group of favorites in the presidential race.

In effect, this very group of favorites can already be said to have formed today. The central figure there is undoubtedly V. Chernomyrdin, who is backed not only by the major Russian oil and gas companies which bring the country around 80 percent of its export revenue, but also the executive apparatus. Yu. Luzhkov, who has the backing of a considerable proportion of our national commercial and banking capital, has taken up position slightly to the right of the former. With B. Fedorov most likely on the very far right.

The situation on the opposite, left side of the starting line, where heavy industry, the military-industrial complex, and structures engaged in arms exports, are to see their participants, is more complex. The strongest candidate here is Yu. Skokov. However, he has little chance of reaching the finishing line first, primarily owing to his characteristic style as an "inaccessible" [zakrytyy] politician. The "Zemskiy Sobor" scenario that Deputy V. Isakov proposed in the past would be more promising for

Yu. Skokov. But judging by B. Yeltsin's interview with IZVESTIYA, that is ruled out. Thus, the "military-industrial complex team" will most likely have to choose between two politicians who have expressed a desire to defend its colors. Namely V. Zhirinovskiy and A. Rutskoy. The final choice will presumably fall on the person who most convincingly proves his loyalty to the team, as well as his manageability and predictability.

Amid this group of favorites V. Chornomyrdin looks the main contender for victory. If only because experience of all manner of elections and referendums held in Russia over the last two years shows that contests are won by the man who is able to rely on the state apparatus and has budget funds at his disposal. But two major factors will work against the premier. First, he will be constantly threatened with the possibility of the Duma's staging a vote of no-confidence in the government. The first proposal of this kind by I. Muravyev, member of the "New Regional Policy" faction, last week was just a trial shot. Such attempts should be expected to increase in the future particularly if the other participants in the contest agree among themselves to join forces in toppling their most dangerous rival.

But an even more serious factor that may effectively work against the prime minister will of course be the state of the Russian economy on the eve of the elections. One is bound to bear in mind the specific nature of Russian voters, who, as the results of the 12 December elections showed, vote "against" rather than "for." So if the economic situation has not improved by the time the elections are held, one should not rule out the idea that most voters will vote against V. Chornomyrdin and the existing regime and vote for A. Rutskoy or V. Zhirinovskiy, otherwise, they will vote against the threat of war and political instability.

Amnestied White House Defenders Interviewed

PM2903101994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
25 Mar 94 p 5

[Article by Aleksey Chelnokov: "Armed Opposition Abandons Underground"]

[Text] The political amnesty announced recently has essentially absolved the sins of the participants in the events of last fall. But those who built the barricades in central Moscow, fired shots from Kalashnikovs, and broke into the "Ostankino" television center have not been consigned to the archives together with the prosecutor's files. And probably far from all of them have acknowledged their guilt, still less come to terms with defeat.

Some "defenders of the Constitution" were released from prison, others emerged from underground where they had spent nearly six months hiding from the law enforcement organs. I wondered: Who are these people and what do they want now? The amnesty has so

emboldened some of them that they agreed to meet with the correspondent of the "ideologically alien" IZVESTIYA.

Colonel Aleksandr M. set as the main condition for our talk that his identity be kept anonymous. That, he gave me to understand over the telephone, was the directive "from above." Of himself he said only that he had graduated from the Lvov military-political school and taught at the Lenin military-political academy. He was coordinator of the "Officers Union" for the Moscow military district. He is easily recognized on a videotape made during last year's May Day demonstration by the opposition forces. In the White House he commanded a large subunit of "volunteers" who hid in a settlement near Moscow until recently.

They had prepared for my arrival. In the apartment where I was taken by a sturdily built boy called Gleb, several "defenders of the White House" were waiting and there was a pile of video cassettes on the table. "The official press is lying when it says we were the first to shoot at 'Ostankino,'" a colonel dressed in camouflage with the merit badges of the airborne troops began the talk.

"Why did you go to take 'Ostankino' at all?" I asked. "This was an action you knew to be futile: Even after purging the television center of 'Vityaz' you would hardly have been able to broadcast."

"You cannot imagine the euphoria which possessed thousands of people at the time. For me it was the happiest moment of my life," one of the underground members replied.

The frames of the video report dispassionately recorded the prelude to the bloody tragedy. The deputies, emerging from the dark White House smelling of faeces (the lighting and sewerage system had been turned off for many days) called for history to be made. "Russia is with you!" they roared into the microphones. "Yeltsin's criminal regime is expiring. We shall see it into its grave!" And the crowd went to its slaughter.

The road was opened, a green light from Krasnopresnenskaya embankment to Ostankino. The armored personnel carriers followed a parallel course, with blue eyes smiling from under the tank drivers' hard hats and fingers making the "V" sign: "Vivat!"

Those taking part in the meeting demanded that "television" be brought to book and a truck rammed the door. People with assault rifles tried to repel the angry crowd from the building. A man in a camouflage jacket sat down not far from the entrance, with a grenade thrower ready.

Man with the Grenade Thrower

I recognized this man. He miraculously survived that carnage. A grenade blast threw him onto a concrete flower tub. It may be considered that he got off lightly:

He had bruising and a grenade fragment wound to his hand. I met with him when he had been discharged from hospital.

Radio engineer Nikolay Abramenzkov remembers better than anyone the absurdity of the "Ostankino" forced march. And he even tried to persuade General Makashov of this but "obeying the oath" he had taken outside the White House he went to the television center as part of the "Sever" special group. Here they were already breaking the glass windows through which could be seen reflected the special militia members armed to the teeth and the fighters of the "Vityaz" special subunit.

And when the general, having set off for talks with the "other side," asked for "cover," Abramenzkov unthinkingly picked up the grenade thrower. And it was not important that the 30-year-old reserve officer did not know how to use the weapon—"the main thing was to intimidate the special militia." He did not hear the radio conversations under way meanwhile among the "Vityaz" officers: "Do you see that grenade thrower?" "Where, where?" "At the entrance. We must take him out." A single shot rang out and in a few minutes loops of tracer bullets were tearing through the crowd....

In 1987 Abramenzkov graduated from the Moscow radioelectronics institute. He worked at a mailbox [secret defense industry enterprise] and "rose" to the post of senior engineer. At the same time he matured in the social field: First he was a communist youth league organization secretary and then headed a party committee. In 1990, when "the project was closed because of conversion," he was obliged to engage in the production of "radio consumer goods" at a firm in the capital.

On 22 September, the day his son was born, he returned to Moscow from Smolensk. And learning of Yeltsin's edict no. 1400, he immediately went to the White House. He saw his son only a month later. "Why did I go there? To ensure they finally stopped selling the country. I saw plants standing idle in Smolensk while all around dealers were growing rich through speculation. It was time to put an end to the anarchy."

"But protesting against 'anarchy' is one thing, taking an assault rifle and grenade thrower in your hand is quite another. Did you realize you would have to shoot people?"

"For the first two days I was on the barricades at the White House. Then I joined the 'Sever' group. When virtually the entire guard left Rutskoy, we were asked to help him. We were issued weapons 30 September and the group was subordinate only to Rutskoy and General Makashov."

A special airborne forces officer to whom I showed the photograph of Abramenzkov with the grenade thrower was taken aback: "We do not even use grenades of this type. We have the latest model."

"Where did you get the grenade thrower and ammunition?"

"It was taken from outside the city hall building. There was also a spray gun lying around there, which was picked up before the city hall was seized by Barkashov's supporters, who probably thought it was a weapon. And a man aged about 40 dressed in a militia uniform brought two grenades and handed them over. It looks as though it was all specially set up to provoke us but it was only later I guessed that.

Number After One, Two!

The "Sever" group consisted of 12 men. Abramenzkov would seem to be lying when he says that he joined it directly from the barricades. They took only tested people because, as became known from a reliable source, "Sever" was formed back in March 1993 and not without the participation of "Nashi" member journalist Nevzorov. The group carried out the most dangerous tasks and that is why the losses were so great: Two members were killed and several seriously wounded. Some members had fought in the trouble spots of the former Union.

Those who came to the White House spontaneously and at the bidding of their hearts joined the "first Moscow volunteer regiment named for the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet." The regiment included a cossack battalion, two battalions of volunteer forces, and a subunit of the "Officers Union"—in all about 1,000 men aged 18 to 60.

The gunmen of the Russian National Unity under the command of Barkashov himself were in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet armed forces under the fourth motorized rifle battalion. Like the first Moscow special cossack squadron and the above-mentioned "Sever" group, they were directly subordinate to the directives of "defense minister" by invitation Achalov.

Yesaul [cossack captain] Vladimir Kurochkin, the owner of the apartment in which my meeting with the underground defenders of the White House took place, was deputy ataman of a cossack squadron. This subunit numbered slightly over 100 men, mainly from Siberia, the Urals, and South Russia.

The passport of a USSR citizen was grounds for receiving an assault rifle. As was an application to the congress of people's deputies and Supreme Soviet asking to be considered a Russian patriot. Those who signed it swore an oath of loyalty to the "only legitimate" organs of power of the state and were considered servicemen.

In the long hours of deathly quiet the armed opposition marched along the asphalt paths and stood watch. It can be seen on the video recording how the opposition wallowed in the floods of misinformation coming from the White House balcony. The "defenders of the Constitution" did not know that the "reliable report" on the

spontaneous transfer of yet another division to their side had been prepared by a few deputies "to strengthen their fighting morale."

The special militia members looking out of the armored personnel carriers were taunting them: "What's the matter with you, boys, we are with you." Barkashov's supporters were already whispering of storming the Kremlin. The airborne forces were meekly eating sandwiches made by women who were Communist Youth League members in the thirties. Engineers in camouflage were sticking ballpoint pens into the muzzles of the militia's assault rifles. Hurrah, our boys are coming, they shouted, seeing the approach of yet another convoy of armored vehicles which after a few hours would tear the crowd to shreds with large-caliber machineguns.

There was a set expression of perplexity on the faces of the dead: "How stupid, we were only a step from victory...." The survivors were cut down by salvos from the "stinking special militia who have betrayed Russia."

The rebels left the barricade not as a crowd but in detachments of insurgents who had sworn loyalty to a power which no longer existed.

Actually, I was told by Yesaul Kurochkin, they had not come to the White House to defend Khasbulatov or Rutskoy personally but rather to oppose "Yeltsin's criminal regime."

"Third Force"

"What was it you so disliked about 'Yeltsin's regime'?" I asked my interlocutors. "At least there are no wars in Russia, there is food in the stores, and no one is yet dying of hunger. And look what is being down on the outskirts of the former Union...."

"For a long time now the country has been controlled not by Yeltsin's clique," Colonel M. a former political worker, sought to enlighten me, "but by a third force. It is no accident that during his trip to Russia Nixon met with members of the opposition. The third force is now seeking someone on whom to gamble after the fall of the existing regime."

"Do you consider this 'fall' to be inevitable?"

"Having issued his edict on the dissolution of parliament, Yeltsin put himself outside the law. And time is now working in our favor."

"But what about the political amnesty and the memorandum on accord?"

"The amnesty was issued for those accomplices of the criminal regime who are up to their elbows in blood. They were thus given the chance to go voluntarily. Otherwise civil war was inevitable. In my view the idea of concluding the memorandum on accord between the executioners and the victims is stillborn. The opposition will conclude it only after Yeltsin's voluntary resignation. All these Yeltsins, Kaufmans, and Rozenfelds who

have found a cosy spot at the top taking cover under Russian surnames must go and the sooner the better for them."

The colonel's intentions are serious and as far as I know he is by no means alone in his thoughts and intentions. Somewhere deep underground a staff of armed forces named for the abolished Supreme Soviet is operating. Aleksandr M.'s deputies are almost constantly on the move "establishing contacts with fellow thinkers in the provinces."

Opposition's Weapon

The losses of manpower during the October events were not as great as the opposition members are inclined to think. Colonel M., who had seven battalions under his command 3 October, for instance, could recall less than 10 men killed from his subunits.

But the opposition is losing its fighters in peace time. Last winter Russian National Unity activists Denisov and Kostin were arrested, as was "Sever" group commander Fridlender.

From Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs operational reports:

1. Aleksandr Kostin. Born 1961 in Voronezh Oblast. Was resident in Anninskiy Rayon, in Arkhangelskaya village, has previous convictions, is regarded a particularly dangerous recidivist. Arrested in Voronezh for mugging a taxi driver in Voronezh.

2. Aleksandr Denisov, from Buryat Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Sentenced in Rostov-na-Donu in 1992 for the illegal possession of a weapon to corrective labor, from which he escaped. Has worked in militia organs in Estonia. Arrested in Tallinn in early 1994.

3. Sergey Fridlender, born 1967, from Lithuania. Was resident in Kobrin City, in Brest Oblast. Went to St. Petersburg in 1988. Since May 1992 has worked in the fifth detachment of the Russian Federation Finance Ministry paramilitary guard. Arrested 29 December 1993 in Kobrin on suspicion of the murder of two people.

According to available information the murders were committed with an assault rifle taken from the White House arsenal. In all the Supreme Soviet was assigned about 2,000 guns. To this day over 400 of them, mainly Kalashnikov assault rifles, have not been found. After Barkashov's supporters had seized the city hall building, 146 official-issue pistols and assault rifles were taken away. Only slightly more than 10 were returned. I am reliably informed that on the evening of 3 October the more farsighted "White House defenders" used every available means to take away dozens of guns from the "last bastion of democracy." It is not hard to guess that these weapons of the opposition will be fired many times yet.

But my meeting with the underground members continued. On the video recording four boys are carrying the body of a young woman to somewhere to one side of the White House. She is stripped naked and her mane of dark hair is trailing on the ground.

Meanwhile Colonel M. told me:

"We broke out of the White House on the night of 4 October. Broke out is the word, because we could not surrender alive. There were about 200 of us and we left through the central exit onto Krasnopresnenskaya embankment and were about to move to the right, toward the international trade center, when suddenly we came under sniper fire. Then we moved rapidly toward the city hall. We broke through three cordons calmly, without a single shot. The special militia pretended not to notice us. We ran across some waste land, crossed a construction site, and then divided into groups of 10-15 and went in various directions. We walked through the city, dirty and unkempt—it was immediately obvious where we had come from but no one tried to stop us. That stinking special militia seized those who had no weapons, not those that were needed. All those who had to get away.

Zorkin Denies Offer To Join Presidential Council

LD2803190394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637
GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The judge of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin was surprised at media reports on Monday that he will possibly become a new member of the presidential council. In an interview with INTERFAX, Zorkin noted that so far he had not received such an offer and that it was too early to comment on such rumors.

At the same time, Zorkin said that the task of the new movement Accord for Russia (he was one of its initiators) is to unite various social and political forces. Zorkin stressed that the appeal of Accord for Russia to citizens should not be put in opposition to the agreement on civic peace in Russia prepared in the Kremlin.

According to Zorkin, he has not yet decided whether he will stay in the Constitutional Court, resign or get involved in politics, all the more so since the court's activities are still suspended and "it is ridiculous to pretend that it is working."

At the same time, such a situation to some extent can be justified, Zorkin believes. "If the Constitutional Court starts to work now, in the present unclear legal situation, it would find itself in a false situation," Zorkin said. There is only the new Constitution. The Duma has not in essence adopted a single law, there is no clear legal field. The Constitutional Court is the body oriented for an absolutely clear legal situation with a good-working mechanism of the division of powers and a legal basis."

Perhaps this is the reason why the authorities are not encouraging the Constitutional Court to start working immediately, Zorkin suggested.

Press Cleared of Blame for Yeltsin 'Plot' Furor

PM2803103994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Press Beyond Suspicion"]

[Text] Now that the dust has settled around the furor over the "plot" against President Yeltsin, the question remains: Who should take responsibility for the whole thing? Aleksandr Zvyagintsev, chief of the Russian General Prosecutor's Office Information Center, announced in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA that we will have to await the results of investigations being carried out by the Federal Counterintelligence Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Prosecutor's Office.

Aleksandr Grigoryevich noted that the press has nothing to fear with regard to libel charges—it has simply carried out its professional duty. Those who circulated these false stories prior to their publication in the press should bear the responsibility.

Communists Comment on New Party Program

LD2803193094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755
GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The program for social and economic development worked out by the leadership of the Russian Communist Party and its faction in the State Duma should help Communists win the presidential and parliamentary elections. This was stated on Monday by a member of the State Duma Igor Bratishev at a Moscow conference in a document entitled "Russia's road to popular government and socialism".

Among other things the program suggests immediately freezing prices, stopping privatization and invalidating the privatization documents that "ignore the rights of workers and the public interest."

The former chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Anatoliy Lukyanov said: "Presidency in general is alien to Russian and Soviet mentality." He is convinced that Russia needs "a strong representative body and a strong government subordinate and accountable to this body."

A former top-ranking official in the Soviet Communist Party Yegor Ligachev announced that preparations have begun for the second congress of peoples of the USSR due in September-October. The first congress was held in Moscow on 20 September 1993.

Federal Authorities Said To Ignore Mood of Local Voters

PM2903090994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Presidential Council Member Leonid Smirnyagin: "The Time Set Aside For Sorting Out Relations Between the Authorities Has Been Completely Exhausted"]

[Text] Any assessment of the elections to local organs of power must be more than depressing. The extremely low voter turnout and the greatly reduced quality of the candidates demonstrate major shifts in the Russian electorate. A number of the previous local authorities were wallowing in corruption, and voters are only too well aware of the fact. Many of the new candidates are merely running for office in order to get rich.

Moreover, the speed of the economic reforms and the desire to do everything at one fell swoop, which may be borne out by history some day, has occasioned extremely profound disappointment among voters at these elections with regard to the present forms of Russian statehood and the institution of democracy as a whole.

I think it very dangerous that the federal authorities do not realize the significance of these processes. They have not only failed to pay the slightest attention to the local elections, to say nothing of applying any sort of pressure, they have not even bothered to show the most basic interest in this process.

I am afraid that against this background the struggle over the Memorandum of Civil Accord will appear to voters as merely a deal struck between politicians in Moscow. The Memorandum of Accord should be presented as an appeal to the people by power structures and social organizations, letting them know that a new stage has been reached in the establishment of Russian statehood: "We have finished the power struggle, we have stopped pushing each other off our chairs. The Constitution has been adopted, and constitutional work lies ahead of us. If possible we will do everything in our power to correct mistakes. Our work aims to drastically change the nature of state power."

The fact that the authorities have been preoccupied with themselves is justified and necessary up to a point: After all, we have been building a new kind of statehood and setting up new institutions. And time has been needed to establish these mutual relationships. However, the time set aside for this purpose has been somewhat protracted. Moreover it has been completely exhausted. There is no longer any need to address this issue. We now have a Constitution, and all parties are united in the opinion that consensus can and must only be reached within the framework of the current Basic Law.

Thus we already have a basis for consensus in the form of the Constitution, and it is time to get down to specific tasks rather than the infighting between various authorities.

We need consensus not just for its own sake, as a sort of agreement contest, but in order to open a path toward creative work, to correct the mistakes of the past and move ahead.

Military Issues

Press Reports Yeltsin 'Secret Order' on Kurils

LD2603135594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] The NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA reports that the Russian Defense Ministry has confirmed the existence of a secret order by Yeltsin on the withdrawal of Russian forces from the Kuril Islands. According to the newspaper, in the four South Kuril islands there is at present a machine-gun and artillery division with tanks dug into the earth dating from the Second World War. It is this division that comes under the presidential redeployment order. Air Force subunits have already virtually been withdrawn from the islands.

Grachev Assistant Denies Report

LD2603145594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Yelena Agapova, assistant of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, told INTERFAX on Saturday that reports by some mass media about the allegedly planned withdrawal of units of the Russian Armed Forces stationed of the Kuril Islands do not reflect the reality.

Official Views Cost of CW Destruction Program

PM2503152394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Vladimir Yermolin: "Chemical Weapons Must Be Destroyed... But It Is an Expensive Business"]

[Text] The parliamentary hearings in the State Duma Thursday [24 March] showed how complex the situation is in connection with Russia's international commitments in the sphere of the destruction of chemical weapons (CW). Defense Ministry spokesman Major General Yuriy Tarasevich stressed that the military department expects the deputies to provide legislative support in such a difficult and expensive business as the destruction of chemical weapons. According to the military, the blueprint for CW destruction needs to be legislatively formalized. A draft blueprint will be presented to the State Duma in mid-April. We also need laws on CW destruction and on the social protection of the population in areas where these weapons are being destroyed.

Funding for all measures connected with preparations for the actual recovery of toxic substances and munitions is extremely uneven and inadequate. Getting rid of Russian chemical weapons will cost two trillion rubles [R] in 1993 prices. Meanwhile, some R10.4 billion are supposed to be allocated for this purpose in the current year. But we all know full well how funds are being allocated this year. The CW disarmament program is no exception.

There was a note of anxiety in what Maj. Gen. Yuri Tarasevich said. A number of arsenals established back in the fifties in Udmurtia and Saratov Oblast are in need of a complete overhaul. In existing conditions, such an overhaul is a very difficult and dangerous business. One would like this to be not an exclusively military headache. Let us hope the hearings go some way toward this.

The military-political aspects of Russia's joining the Convention on the Destruction of Chemical Weapons were also examined during the hearings. The inevitable question arose: Might it not happen that our country will abandon this type of weapon, while other countries, including those bordering on Russia, will remain "chemically" armed and, moreover, will reach a new level as a result of scientific developments? In general terms, the Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry spokesmen assured those present that in this case there are reliable control mechanisms in place and the world community provides certain guarantees. But the detailed reply to this question obviously had to wait until the hearings resumed behind closed doors.

We would point out that the Convention on Chemical Weapons was signed in Paris in 1993. So far it has been signed by 156 states, but it has been ratified by only four: Sweden, Mauritius, the Seychelles, and Fiji. Whether Russia is to become the fifth depends on how convincing the Foreign and Defense Ministries' proratification arguments are in the eyes of the parliamentarians. All I would say is that, in the event of ratification, we will be able to count on financial assistance from Western countries and the United States.

Missile Destruction Support Center Profiled

PM2803091994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Dolinin under the "First Hand" rubric: "When Missiles 'Die'"]

[Text] Support centers for implementing arms reduction treaties exist in every branch of the Armed Forces but a special place is occupied by the Strategic Missile Forces' center, given the political realities that exist in the world. So when it became necessary to create such centers in Belorussia [Belarus] and the Ukraine [na Ukraine], it was no wonder that they turned to the missile troops in particular for their experience, and there is no denying that such experience exists there.

Suffice it to recall that since the founding of the support center—this dates back to the time of the implementation of the Treaty on Intermediate-and Shorter-Range Missiles—826 deployed and nondeployed intermediate-range RSD-10, R-12, and R-14 missiles, 608 launchers for those missiles, 60 missile operational bases, and dozens of auxiliary installations have been scrapped under the organizational control of the Strategic Missile Forces High Command and officers from the center and with their direct participation....

The forthcoming work involved in the reduction of strategic offensive arms is even larger in scale. The intensity of the center's activity is now determined by the fact that missile men began the planned destruction of obsolete missile complexes last year without even waiting for the ratification of START-I and START-II.

More than 200 silo-based missile launchers were removed from service and then destroyed. A lot of work, notably by the center's specialists, went into the creation of the Russian destruction bases in Surovatikha and Pibanshurye and the preparation of sites for the reception and stationing of U.S. inspection groups at Strategic Missile Forces installations....

Colonel General Aleksandr Petrovich Volkov, first deputy commander in chief of the Strategic Missile Forces, who heads the entire destruction project, believes that "the missile troops are absolutely ready to ensure the successful fulfillment of all the commitments made under the treaty."

Who are they, these people who bear the burden of the destruction program on their shoulders? Colonel Anatoliy Murashenkov, the center's chief, now takes up the story:

"Officers of the Support Centers for Implementing Arms Reduction Treaties are real missile men. They only employ people who have a wealth of military experience, who know missile work and technology inside out, and who have years of alert duty behind them."

Col. Murashchenkov himself, incidentally, was chief of a combined unit's operational department prior to his appointment to the Support Center (it was called the Center for Destruction Management [Tsentr upravleniya likvidatsiyey] then). Prior to that he had learned all there is to know about missile service from many posts. Like all the other officers he learned the science of weapon destruction "from scratch" and by practical experience. No one in the missile forces at that time knew as much as he did.

I met with other specialists at the center. Colonel Valentin Romashev, Colonel Georgiy Khristoforidi, Lieutenant Colonel Anatoliy Pavlov, Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay Shpirko, Lieutenant Colonel Viktor Yakunin.... They, like other officers, have clearly defined duties. Some are responsible for the planning and coordination of destruction work and monitoring the fulfillment of

treaty obligations, others are busy with the arms-destruction related problems of the military economy [voyskovoye khozyaystvo] and the use of the funds thus released....

Much time is spent on preparing and providing support for the inspection work. During the center's six years' existence 316 inspection groups have visited the Missile Forces alone. They monitor progress in implementing the Treaty on Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles (reciprocal inspection activity under the treaty will not end until the next century) and of conventional arms agreements....

"After the completion of special courses," Colonel Vladislav Alekseyev says, "the center's officers themselves work in inspection groups in the United States, Belgium, Britain, Germany, and Italy."

Vladislav Arseniyevich, for example, has twice done inspection work at the Hercules plants in Salt Lake City.

I did not catch the demolition engineers at home that day. Colonel Vasiliy Orzhekhovskiy and Colonel Mikhail Kiryushin together with their subordinates were busy organizing and providing backup for the unique job of destroying silo missile-launchers, which KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already written about and which people have been able to see for themselves in a recent Radar TV movie for Ostankino Television.

But the duty shift was there that day, as it was supposed to be. Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Kirshkovskiy and Major Andrey Titov were busy with current operational work, maintaining communications with the National Nuclear Risk Reduction Center and receiving information from the CSCE....

The work at the center seemed to me to be routine and free of fuss. Even when the latest notification of an inspection from the United States arrived I did not see any change in the pace of work. They did not know which Strategic Missile Forces installation would be inspected or on what scale the inspection would be (there is a memorandum stipulating this), but the officers knew well what they had to do in these circumstances. Just as they do in all other situations connected with the destruction of nuclear missiles, furthermore.

Privatized Defense Enterprises Triple in Number

LD2803191894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to information received by RIA from the Russian State Committee for Defense Industry, the number of privatized enterprises in the defense sector in 1993 increased by over three times and amounted to 642 enterprises.

In July, the State Committee for Defense Industry is going over to a qualitatively new stage of privatization—

investment auctions. Their aim is to attract funds from this country and foreign investors for technological renovation of the plant undergoing conversion.

Military Publications Merge, To Cease Publication

OW2903094094 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0152 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Interview with unidentified captain first rank by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded; from the "Aty-Baty" program]

[Text] In accordance with the adopted decision, the following armed forces journals will cease publication: VESTNIK PROTIVOVOZDUSHNOY OBORONY [THE AIR DEFENSE HERALD]; VOYENNNY VESTNIK [THE MILITARY HERALD]; AVIATSIYA I KOSMONAVTIKA [AVIATION AND SPACE]; VOYENNO-EKONOMICHESKIY ZHURNAL [THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC JOURNAL], which until recently was called TYL VOORUZHENNYKH SIL [THE ARMED FORCES REAR]; and TEKHNIKA I VOORUZHENIYE [EQUIPMENT AND ARMS].

From 1 July of this year, we will be publishing the ARMEYSKIY SBORNIK [THE ARMY COLLECTION], which will absorb the topics of and replace the five journals ceasing publication. It has already been included in the subscription catalog, and one will be able to become a subscriber.

The three educational and trends journals, ARMIYA [ARMY], SOBESEDNIK VOYNA [THE SOLDIER'S INTERLOCUTOR], and ARGUMENT [ARGUMENT], which were published by the armed forces until recently, will be replaced by a journal called ORIYENTIR [THE ORIENTATOR], the first issue of which we expect will be issued after 1 July.

Federal Assembly

Rybkin Interviewed on Army, Other Topics

PM2803145194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Mar 94 pp 1, 3

["Interlocutor of the Day" interview with Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin by Vladimir Yermolin; place, date not given: "Russia Remains a Power. And a Great Many More Will Cling to Its Shoulder"—first paragraph is boxed "Calling Card" introduction]

[Text] Ivan Petrovich Rybkin was born in 1946. He graduated from the Volgograd Agricultural Institute, the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences, and the Foreign Ministry Diplomatic Academy; he is a candidate of technical sciences and senior lecturer, worked in industry, and spent 17 years lecturing in a higher educational establishment. Until his election as a Russian people's deputy in 1991, he was second secretary of the Volgograd CPSU Oblast Committee. In the

Russian Federation Supreme Soviet he was coordinator of the "Communists of Russia" faction. He was elected to the State Duma in December 1993. He has been chairman of the State Duma since January 1994.

[Yermolin] Ivan Petrovich, let us begin with our traditional questions: What is your attitude toward military service? What was your military rank?

[Rybkin] My current military rank is major in the reserve. I did compulsory service in my time. After graduating from the school for junior aviation specialists I served in the Air Force near Tula—the regiment was called "Normandy-Neman" in the old style. So far as I know, all the men in our family served in the Army. My great grandfathers received land on the right bank of the Khoper for 25 years of irreproachable service. One of my great grandfathers fought at Shipka, and the other fought in the Russian-Japanese war and World War I. My father is a Great Patriotic War invalid. He came home badly wounded and severely shell-shocked, mute and deaf. My mom married him when he was in that state.... My uncle, a colonel in the reserve, has five combat decorations. My two cousins are officers and both serve in the North. In a nutshell, I regard military service as a sacred duty.

[Yermolin] Such an attitude toward service and the Armed Forces can scarcely be described as commonplace today. There are many reasons for this. But I think you will agree that legislators too must have their say here and work to increase the Army's prestige.

[Rybkin] You are quite right. The Army must be thoroughly helped today. The serviceman still does not enjoy full legal protection today.

At this point I can say the following: The State Duma Defense Committee and the Russian Federation Defense Ministry must have joint working groups which, among others, would resolve the task of monitoring the way in which the laws that are adopted are implemented. In other words, monitoring the entire sequence: the law, the procedure for application, and implementation at local level. Our committee is vested with monitoring functions, and I know its members intend to strictly oversee the implementation of laws from the "military package." As for the package itself, we are not going to start over from scratch. Some things will be revised and added to. We will also reinstate a great deal that had been lost. For instance, providing retirees with land. Remember the norms of the postwar period: When, say, a colonel who had fought bravely was discharged, his chest covered in decorations, the state would give him a house and one hectare of land. This also demonstrated the state's attitude toward the military, its defenders. Today former officers could also do a great deal to develop private farming. The most effective assistance will be given to them here. It has to be said that nowadays those who are discharged from the Army into the reserve or who retire are much less well protected than formerly. If only because these processes used to be planned, whereas now mass discharges are taking place as a result of the reform

while people at local level are often simply unable to handle all the retirees. In principle, I will say one thing: So far as we are concerned, the Army and legal support for it are a priority sphere of activity. And in the very near future we hope to begin examining draft laws from the "military package." But I will note that I would like to see a prompter response from the Defense Ministry to our request to provide help in the form of skilled advisers and to assign experienced specialists to work on the committee. There are professional soldiers on the committee, but assistance would be nice. I also want to emphasize that, despite the fact that the Defense Committee represents literally all factions, there are no disagreements over approaches toward solving the Army's problems: Everyone is unanimous that the Armed Forces need a reliable legal base today.

[Yermolin] There is also another problem that perturbs the military today—the protection of the defense budget. It is no secret that even the funds assigned for defense purposes according to the budget often have to be wrestled out of the Finance Ministry, so to speak.

[Rybkin] I can only repeat—here too the State Duma will monitor things most strictly. Unfortunately, we are still not able to live according to a single state budget. So now we are having to ratify the budget quarterly. The government recently sent us the draft budget law for the second quarter: to authorize funding in the amounts for the first quarter. The State Duma already adopted it by 23 March. I would emphasize that the Army must receive everything allocated to it under the law. We will keep a constant eye on this, and we will react promptly and harshly to any attempts to hurt the military in any respect.

[Yermolin] Problems of funding and social protection are certainly keenly felt as far as the Army is concerned. But the military react just as sensitively to political instability in the country. It has long been noted that, as a rule, it is purely civilian people who speak lightly of war. The professional soldier, more than anyone, knows the price of peace and is interested in civil accord. Today we can see how various forces in society—the president, the government, parliament, and movements and parties—are attempting to arrive at general accord. Admittedly, it is somewhat worrying that some people are attempting to use even peace initiatives, memorandums, and statements for purposes of political confrontation. In this connection my question is this: How do you, as chairman of the State Duma, envision the road to civil accord?

[Rybkin] First of all, I think that in October we all received a real inoculation against any relapse into the sickness of "civil war." The extremists gained the upper hand then, and we all suffered a defeat. We must learn from this. I have always said and I reiterate today: We are all doomed to reach accord. Doomed. I have seen for myself that the president is today particularly persistent on the road toward accord. We have mutual understanding and cooperation with his structures and with

Boris Nikolayevich himself. I do not feel any particular concern that some people are putting forward their own peace initiatives. Here, as the poet said, "let fame be the spur." I see no contradictions on this path. The president voiced his proposals in his message. Then Boris Nikolayevich assembled a conference and two cochairmen of a working commission were appointed. The commission is now working on a document that will reflect the desire of all Russia's branches of power, parties, social organizations, trade unions, and religious groups for civil peace. The Duma has delegated Alevtina Vasilyevna Fedulova to the commission, and representatives of different factions and deputies' groups are also taking part. That is, normal cooperation is under way. I do not know where this talk of a "war of peace initiatives" originates. Like the rumors of conspiracies and confrontation in general. The president will return to Moscow, and everyone will get together and I am sure will sign a memorandum or pact of civil peace. You can call it what you will, but the important thing is that they will sign a common accord not to violate but to strengthen peace in society. In fact the recently announced amnesty was the first step toward this. I am sure that the majority of Russian citizens welcome the fact that we have had sufficient sense and sufficient heart to forget the black days of enmity. It could not be otherwise. People can breathe freely, and hopes for a better future have emerged. There is no need to keep a worried eye on the political pendulum to see which way it is going to swing and who is going to arrest and put on trial whom tomorrow. All the people who have been released have been given an opportunity to embark on creative activity. If some do not take this opportunity and again attempt to stage a political brawl, we, together with the president, are able to give them an appropriate warning or put them back behind bars, this time under tougher articles of the Criminal Code. I would remind you that amendments of this sort to the Criminal Code have already passed their first reading in the Duma. It is precisely the amnesty that in many respects made possible the appearance of the document on all-Russian accord that is now in preparation.

[Yermolin] Politics is capable of bringing about such an accord, but only the economy can preserve and consolidate it. Do you agree with that view, Ivan Petrovich?

[Rybkin] Of course. This is why we are working so hard in the Duma on a code of laws capable not only of ensuring the progress of the economic reforms but in some respects of anticipating them. Our main problem is the decline in production. Until producers begin to work, you can write the most beautiful budgets in ornamental Slavonic script but nothing will change for the better. We have a state sector in the economy—we must restore its full controllability. Controllability not so much by administrative methods as by economic methods. As for the private sector, it should be borne in mind that in all countries it is regulated by means of taxes, the system of benefits, and so on. And the private sector must work in the interests of the state. This is entirely natural. Unfortunately, legislators are at present lagging behind the

processes that are taking place in society, in the sphere of economic relations. But, I repeat, a package of draft laws forming the legal framework for economic reform is largely ready in the Duma committees, and work on the draft laws at plenary sessions will begin in the next few days.

[Yermolin] Returning to the topic of civil peace, I would like to know: How explosive do you think the very fact of such sharp stratification of society into poor and rich may prove to be? After all, today over one-third of Russians are below the poverty line.

[Rybkin] The state is obliged to support and will support those who, for objective reasons, have been left helpless in market conditions—elderly people, invalids, large families, orphans.... But it is impossible to turn Russia back into one big social security department. Yes, the state must protect its citizens' rights—the right to work and to remuneration. Work and provide for yourself and your family by your labor. You can put your trust in the state today, but you must rely primarily on yourself. As for "budget-financed workers," including the military, as I have already said, the State Duma insofar as its rights permit will act as the guarantor that the state does not renege on its commitments here.

[Yermolin] Do you think that the social base exists for civil accord in the country?

[Rybkin]) I am sure that the overwhelming majority of Russians realize that today you cannot have everything all at once and today you cannot think in terms of "Whites and Reds." People also realize this. Where does this clear division exist in real life? Nowhere. Everything is interwoven. My grandfather got on his horse and went to fight against Yegor Gaydar's grandfather. Brother went to war against brother. Do we want all this to happen all over again? I am sure that if in 1921 Soviet power had not declared an amnesty on everyone who fought against the "Reds" in the civil war, it would have been a long time before there was peace on the Don and in southern Russia. Only after "amnesia" had been declared did real civil peace and a transition to creative life become possible. In 1921 my grandfather got off his horse and hung up his saber. I remembered this when I supported the idea of an amnesty for all participants in political clashes. Understanding by Russian citizens that civil war is the ruin of Russia is the basis that will unite everyone.

[Yermolin] In addition to that understanding, I would like to hope that Russians also have a sense of being a power, one power for all. A power that has its own interests and dignity.

[Rybkin] Unfortunately, we have rather forgotten our own interests in recent years. Take the problem of credits. In 1992 we paid off more credits than the United States. Why? At a time when we ourselves need credits. We must put an end to this. Relations with foreign countries, including nearby ones, must be based on the

proverb: "Prudence will not spoil a friendship." Especially with regard to warning countries. Anyone who picks up a weapon must be aware that his is primarily ruining his own country and his own family.

[Yermolin] The example of the peacemaking mission in Yugoslavia indicates that we still remember our geopolitical interests.

[Rybkin] That is true. Our actions here must be very considered. Not everybody likes the inclusion of Russia in the European security system. Remember merely the fact that we are still being kept in the "ante-chamber" to the Council of Europe whereas the Baltic countries got through it quite quickly. We should not be in a hurry and fuss about. Incidentally, this also applies to the "Partnership for Peace" program. Russia is not an ordinary participant in the international process. Accordingly the terms of the proposed partnership must take this into account. Incidentally, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, who recently visited our country, agreed with me on this point. If along with the withdrawal of troops from Germany and the Baltic states, we also join in a process of standardization [unifikatsiya] "after the pattern of so and so," there will be more than enough negative consequences. Negative so far as Russia's defense capability is concerned. As for partnership, this can only be welcomed. Especially as partnership in this instance is mutually advantageous. Russia has been and remains one of the crucial factors in world security. Whether some people like this or not.

[Yermolin] Ivan Petrovich, finally let me ask you a few short questions. What is your view of Mikhail Poltoranin's statement about the prospect of extending the powers of the Federal Assembly until 1998?

[Rybkin] From a purely legal viewpoint this is possible. By kind agreement with the president and the Federation Council. But the main say here belongs to the people. Even without a referendum it will be clear whether our activity suits Russian citizens or not. Then we will decide. At the moment we are laying the foundations for full-blooded work by the sixth State Duma. Not a sitting goes by without our adopting one or two laws. So much for the question of the effectiveness of the Duma. We are close to working in a more coordinated fashion.

[Yermolin] How do you understand the expression "The Army is outside politics"?

[Rybkin] It is desirable for the Army to be outside politics, but to know what is happening in politics. Don't forget that enlightenment has always been a strong point of the Russian Army. Having a clear idea of the world in which you live, and knowing the line that cannot be crossed. Russian officers were world-renowned for being marked by education, culture, and a lofty understanding of duty, dignity, and honor, and the Russian intelligentsia used to devote the best years of its youth to service. And this was correct.

[Yermolin] Do you take an optimistic view of the future?

[Rybkin] I can answer that question as follows. U.S. Vice President Gorn [as published] said to me: "I want to share your confidence in the success of the reforms if only because Russia is a country of highly educated people, more educated even than in the United States." Admittedly, he added that we lack pragmatism. Yes, I am confident that Russia has been and will remain a respected country in the world and a power. And many will cling to the shoulder of this power in search of protection and support.

Duma Conditions for 'Partnership for Peace'

PM2803132794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma Defense Committee, under the "Politics" rubric: "'Partnership for Peace' Is Part of an Overall Security System"]

[Text] The "Partnership for Peace" program basically proclaims acceptable objectives and tasks to which Russia can and should append its signature. However, there are several objections with regard both to the accession procedure and the contents of the actual program. The acceptance procedure (the "16+1" formula) virtually deprives CIS countries of the right to collective security. The 16 NATO countries decide whether a particular country can participate in the program and basically set the terms for participation. My second observation regards the content of the program. First of all it envisages standardization of the communications and then the weapons of countries taking part in the program. This will naturally deal a very serious blow to the interests of our military-industrial complex. These two points are the most serious, and representatives from the Ministry of Defense, the Foreign Ministry, and the Security Council have not yet provided answers to these objections. It is true that, in addition to a market agreement, a number of presentation programs have been envisaged, and it is these programs which will in fact designate the degree to which a particular state will participate in signing up to the "partnership," and hence the costs to be borne by that state in implementing the program. There are other objections connected with Russia's status as a nuclear state with a powerful military-industrial potential. Consequently Russia is simply signing up to a program which has been formulated without its participation, and this is somewhat damaging to its prestige. Moreover, the program itself is a veiled way of expanding NATO. All these issues need to be looked at as a whole, and therefore we have reached two conclusions at our parliamentary hearings. The first is this: If Russia joins the "partnership," it should put forward a number of conditions with a view to alleviating any negative consequences. The second conclusion is that the "Partnership for Peace" program should be regarded merely as part of the establishment of a much more overarching security system linked to new realities following the end of the Cold War.

Federation Council Committees, Personnel Listed
PM2803135194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Mar 94 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed, untitled report under the "In the Federation Council" rubric]

[Text] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council [FC] has formed the following committees:

the FC Committee for the Affairs of the Federation, the Federation Treaty, and Regional Policy:

chairman Vasilii Georgiyevich Tarasenko,

deputy chairmen Pavel Semenovich Shteyn, Andrey Serafimovich Asochakov, and Valeriy Mikhaylovich Adrov;

the FC Committee for Constitutional Legislation and Judicial and Legal Questions:

chairman Issa Magometovich Kostoyev,

deputy chairmen Yelena Borisovna Mizulina and Vladimir Pavlovich Strigin;

the FC Committee for the Budget, Financial, Currency, and Credit Regulation, the Issuing of Money, Tax Policy, and Customs Regulation:

chairman Nikolay Nikolayevich Gonchar,

deputy chairmen Aleksandr Alekseyevich Titkin, Valentin Ivanovich Tsvetkov, and Pavel Aleksandrovich Golyshev;

the FRC Committee for Questions of Economic Reform, Ownership, and Property Relations:

chairman Vitaliy Afanasyevich Zelenkin,

deputy chairmen Yuriy Stepanovich Shchapov and Vladimir Nilovich Sergeyenkov;

the FC Committee for the Affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

chairman Vadim Anatolyevich Gustov,

deputy chairman Yevgeniy Aleksandrovich Pavlov,

secretary Mayya Ivanovna Ettyryntyna;

the FC Committee for International Affairs:

chairman Vladimir Nikolayevich Podoprigora,

deputy chairman Aleksey Petrovich Manannikov,

secretary Lyudmila Stepanovna Kotesova;

the FC Committee for Questions of Security and Defense:

chairman Petr Petrovich Shirshov,

deputy chairman Petr Grigoryevich Premyak,
 secretary Aleksandr Leonidovich Yepimakhov;
 the FC Committee for Social Policy:

chairman Galina Nikolayevna Karelova,
 deputy chairman Valeriy Nikolayevich Rastorguyev,
 secretary Leonid Viktorovich Korotkov;
 the FC Committee for Agrarian Policy:

chairman Vyacheslav Petrovich Zvolinskiy,
 deputy chairman Vyacheslav Nikoleyevich Lyubimov;
 the FC Committee for Questions of Science, Culture, and Education:

chairman Yevgeniy Alekseyevich Stroyev,

deputy chairmen Viktor Kirsanovich Bulgakov and Lev Panteleymonovich Kurakov,

secretary Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Zenkin;

The Russian Federation Federal Assembly FC has formed an FC Commission for Standing Orders and Parliamentary Procedures:

chairman Yevgeniy Vladimirovich Krestyaninov.

Regional Affairs

Ulyanovsk Elections Stopped After Gerrymandering Complaint

PM2903080194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Valentin Razboynikov: "Ulyanovsk Democrats' Plea Granted: Elections Are Postponed"]

[Text] Ulyanovsk—The incident is unprecedented for Russia: In response to a complaint from the regional center of the democratic reform movement, certain provisions on the elections that had already been ratified by the local administration have been ruled juridically null and void by the Ulyanovsk Oblast Court in open session.

Many grievances were set out in the suit, but perhaps the most important was that the electoral districts had been incorrectly apportioned. "In the administrative-territorial districts the number of voters fluctuates between 10,335 and 173,665," the plea runs. "This contradicts the basic provisions...." In the democrats' opinion, this would lead to "more than 60 percent of deputies being elected to the legislative assembly from a rural population which constitutes 47 percent of the oblast's inhabitants, while the 53 percent of voters who live in the cities will elect only 37 percent of the deputies."

The court hearing lasted several days. Meanwhile, in the local press, the idea was hammered home—whether for the benefit of the court or that of the voters—that the basic provisions on the elections confirmed by the president were purely recommendatory in character. As a component of the Federation the oblast has the right to make its own amendments to the statute. This argument was also heard in the hall of sessions. In response Oleg Timofeyev, presiding over the court, said clearly: "In the event of a contradiction between federal law and another act, the federal law applies."

Claims that the president's basic provisions on elections are recommendatory in character were also ruled unfounded. The large disproportions in the numbers of voters apparent in the division of the districts were ruled "not in conformity with the law."

The court's ruling was made public, but it has not yet been issued either to the plaintiff or to the defendant. I have quoted this document from a tape recording. It has yet to be edited and printed, as is the custom in these cases.... Meanwhile, only two days remain before the elections.

In the evening, people seeking seats in the local duma vied with one another in eloquence on local television as if nothing had happened. The Ulyanovsk press appeals: "We hope that the citizens of Ulyanovsk will not allow the elections to be disrupted, and will confirm this with a high turnout...."

On 25 March Yuriy Goryachev, head of the oblast administration, ordered the elections postponed to a later date. He also adopted an appeal to the oblast's voters. This says that everything was ready for the elections, but that a group of political intriguers under the banner of democratic forces had managed to torpedo the elections. The oblast court, in Yu. Goryachev's opinion, was also under their thumb.

Low Turnout in Novosibirsk Elections

LD2703101294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Elections to bodies of representative power and local self-government will take place in 29 regions of Russia today, ITAR-TASS reports. The elections will take place, in particular, in Krasnoyarsk and Stavropol krais, in Kurgan, Bryansk, Vladimir, Voronezh, Rostov, Ryazan, and Samara oblasts.

The local authorities in Maritime Kray and Ulyanovsk Oblast have decided to postpone the elections there, although the Central Electoral Commission scheduled them for 27 March. However, ITAR-TASS reports that the failure to keep to the schedule does not violate the law.

In the Russian Federation, 40 components have already held elections to bodies of representative power, and observers report that the turnout was low.

It seems that a similar picture is being painted today. Our correspondent Tamarova Ventsimerova reports on how the elections are proceeding in Novosibirsk Oblast.

As sociologists thought, by morning the turnout by the Novosibirsk electorate was low. According to data from the oblast electoral committee, by 1000 local time, just 3.38 percent of the oblast's electorate had voted. According to the city electoral commission, just over 2 percent of the city's electorate had voted by that time.

There are 202 candidates who have registered for the oblast soviet; 49 of them are to be elected. For the city soviet, 103 candidates have registered; 25 of them will be elected.

Our correspondent thinks confusion over the time change might be one of the many reasons for citizens' lack of interest in the elections. Summertime was introduced in Russia at 0200 this morning. [passage omitted]

Moscow Region Elections May Be Valid Despite Low Turnout

LD2703153694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1504 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Chief Sergey Yudakov of the regional Administration's department on work with the bodies of municipal power told INTERFAX Sunday that in spite of the low voter turnout, municipal elections in the Moscow region would possibly be regarded as valid. According to Yudakov, 18 percent of the voters had come to cast ballots by 1500. By 2200, which is the polling stations' closing time, another 7 percent or more would have taken part in the elections.

Under the existing regulations, at least 25 percent of the voters must come to the polling stations if elections are to be regarded as valid.

On 27 March the Moscow and 30 other regions of the Russian Federation are holding municipal elections. Voter turnout is low everywhere. The central electoral commissions of the Kaliningrad and Kaluga regions say that slightly more than 21 percent of the voters cast ballots by 1500.

Republic Postpones Elections Until Constitution Adopted

LD2803152594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The elections to the People's Assembly in the Karachai-Circassian Republic [Karachayevo-Cherkess AO] and a referendum on the presidency scheduled for 24 April have been postponed until a new constitution is adopted. The decision was taken at the emergency parliament session which closed on Saturday night. The session transformed the parliament into a people's assembly.

Before the decision was taken, the parliament regulations were changed because deputies of the Russian nationality left the session. The session also formed the legislative committee of the Republic's People's Assembly, which consists of 27 deputies representing the main nationalities of the republic. Elected to it were five deputies from each of the Abazin, Nogai, Karachai and Circassian nationalities and one deputy from each of Ossetian and Greek nationalities. It is decided to elect to the legislative committee five deputies of the Russian nationality at the next stage of the session scheduled for 1 April.

The decisions of the emergency session have caused a very negative reaction among the public movements and parties of Karachai-Circassian Republic which stand for the holding of democratic elections on 24 April.

Official Analyzes Regional Elections

LD2803165694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1527
GMT 28 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow 28 Mar, TASS—"Legislative and Executive Branches of power in the subjects of the federation are being balanced off," according to Sergey Samoylov, acting head of the Department for Work with Regions in the President Boris Yeltsin's administration.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, Samoylov said that the election campaign has entered its final stage in Russian regions. Between December 1993 and last Sunday elections were held in 69 regions. In 59 of them they were considered good and valid. Their legislative bodies are formed by two-thirds and can begin operation.

Despite gloomy forecasts, elections this past weekend showed that "the activity of the electorate on the whole increased and reached about 40 per cent on the average," Samoylov said. They were held in 27 regions because North Ossetia, the Maritime region and two other regions have postponed them until a later date. Elections were good in 24 regions and failed, according to preliminary reports, in the Samara, Magadan and Ryazan regions. In some regions, local bodies of power are 100 per cent staffed. For example, in the Irkutsk region, in all 45 constituencies more than 40 per cent of voters cast their ballots.

The failure was also reported in the cities of Voronezh, Nizhny Novgorod, Novosibirsk and Samara.

Samoylov pointed to the "unpleasant tendency" when former heads of regional soviets can regain power, for example in the Kemerovo, Kurgan and other Russian regions. The winners include many heads of regional administrations, directors of industrial enterprises. The party elite, both right and left, kept low profile.

Explaining the increase in the activity at the final stage, Samoylov noted that the administrations which held these elections had drawn on the experience of their neighbours. They had more time to prepare for the elections, explain their idea to the population and engage the local mass media. However the situation was also affected by the lingering "syndrome of elections to the State Duma," Samoylov explained. People see that it has not adopted a single law yet. This makes them draw parallels with their local councils. "The Zhirinovskiy phenomenon is also scary," he added.

The voting proceeded more actively in rural areas. Experts are tending to explain it by the more tight discipline in rural communities and their greater dependence on local bodies of power.

Ten regions will hold by-elections, but "we already have 59 formed bodies of power," Samoylov said. This is very important because "the Executive Branch should not be left alone for too long," he added. He believes that confrontation between branches of power may be expected only in a small number of regions.

In more than 10 regions local councils have already begun their operation. In some regions elections will be held with consent of the Central Electoral Commission by June, in others this coming autumn.

Samoylov stressed that federal bodies of power "are trying to assess the results of the elections realistically. Bad or good new bodies of power are, we have to work with them." "The experience of their work will be used in drawing up new laws on the basic principles of local self-government, on basic functions of the bodies of power in the subjects of the federation and on guarantees of the voters' rights," he said.

Election Returns in Chuvashia Reported

LD2803184994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637
GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Somewhat more than 25 percent of the electorate came to the polls in Sunday's second round of voting in the parliamentary election in the Russian republic of Chuvashia, said a spokesman for the republic's Central Electoral Commission.

He told INTERFAX on Monday that, as a result, 21 more seats were filled of the future legislature's total of 47, in addition to seven obtained during the first round. This still fails to reach the minimum of 32 necessary to make the new parliament's decisions valid.

With its former parliament dissolved, Chuvashia will for an indefinite time have no legislature, the spokesman said. Legislative authority will temporarily be vested in the presidium of the previous parliament, headed by the latter's speaker, Eduard Kuborev.

Elections in Samara, Magadan Oblasts Invalid

LD2903090694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Despite low participation—about 40 percent of voters took part in the elections—preliminary results indicate the elections are valid. The Central Electoral Commission also has information that in two regions, Samara and Magadan oblasts, the necessary 25 percent threshold has not been reached. In other regions, local bodies of legislative power have already been formed to two-thirds or even completely, which enables them to start working immediately.

Representatives of the president's apparatus, have analyzed the results of the elections and are saying the level of conservatism in the elected representative bodies of power will be considerable. According to the same source, rural voters, who gave their votes to socialist candidates, were the most active.

Yeltsin Sochi Trip Benefits Krasnodar Kray

PM2903104294 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by S. Alekseyeva: "Benefits of a Vacation in Sochi"]

[Text] Krasnodar—After B. Yeltsin left Sochi, all the newspapers here noted with one voice: The president's vacation was chiefly beneficial to...Krasnodar Kray. Kuban Governor N. Yegorov and Sochi Mayor N. Karpov had more intensive contact with him this time than ever before. Yegorov acknowledged that in two weeks they had five meetings with the president, and quite long ones at that—from 1.5 to 14 hours. The local leaders were able to obtain from these contacts the maximum benefit for their region, and to resolve questions which usually take a very long time to resolve (or, more often, not to resolve).

Thus, the president's consent was obtained for the introduction of a visa system in Krasnodar Kray. This means that people living in the nearby foreign countries will now be able to visit the Kuban only on special invitations, with entry visas, and by virtue of paying to register with the local organs (this will not apply to citizens of Russia). The question of stationing additional military formations in the kray's territory was also decided—specifically, one army division and one division of internal troops—in order to strengthen security in the region as well as preventing possible interethnic conflicts. B. Yeltsin gave the "go-ahead" for the allocation of 434 billion rubles to the kray to provide amenities for servicemen's families, something that the military men themselves and the kray's organs of power have long been asking for. In short, O. Lobov was instructed to prepare a whole list of questions relating to strengthening the security of the kray—which is now a border region—for examination in the Security Council.

And that is not all. The president promised to sign an edict on the development of the resort of Anapa as an all-Russian children's health resort. Anapa was an all-Union children's health resort before, but in the years of reform it fell, like all of us, into a total decline, so now we will recreate what we ourselves destroyed. B. Yeltsin and V. Chernomyrdin, who visited him in Sochi, also backed the kray's initiative on building new cargo ports on the Black Sea at Sochi and Anapa, and special government decrees will probably be adopted on this matter in the near future.

They even succeeded in obtaining a written petition from the president of Russia to the International Olympic Committee on holding the Winter Olympics in Sochi in the year 2002.

Last, and most important: During the presidential vacation a decision was adopted on drawing up a special treaty (agreement) between Krasnodar Kray and the federal organs of power on the demarcation of rights and powers (similar to the one that it is planned to conclude with Kaliningrad Oblast), which substantially boosts the kray's status as a component of the Federation.

I cannot help being pleased for my native land. If the state's top men continue to take regular vacations on our coast, the Kuban will soon become the most prosperous region in Russia. But I cannot help sympathizing with those oblasts, especially in remote parts of Russia, where the president and the premier never stop by.

Ossetian President Confirms Proposal for Talks

LD2803145194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1302 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valery Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz 28 Mar, TASS—North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov confirmed on Monday his proposal to hold a summit meeting with Ingush leader Ruslan Aushev to discuss ways to restore peace and stability in the region.

"My peace-making initiative—to meet with Ingush President Ruslan Aushev on 2 April—aims at finding ways to reach peace and accord between the peoples of the two Republics and work out principles and mechanisms of implementation of the presidential decree 'on the procedure for returning refugees and displaced persons to the places of their permanent residence in the Republics of North Ossetia and Ingushetia,'" Galazov said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Galazov said that there has been no official response from Ingushetia so far. Meanwhile, North Ossetian Government and parliament have set up a working group to hold talks with the Ingush side in the city of Terek on 29 March to decide on the venue of the summit meeting, its agenda and composition of the official delegations. The working group is headed by Vice-Prime Minister Georgiy Dzhigkayev.

Galazov confirmed that the Ossetian side had thoroughly studied the package of documents concerning the mechanism of implementation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree on refugees. The documents lay a legal foundation for normalising relations between the two nations and restoring peace and accord in the region.

Galazov stressed that the situation in the zone of the state of emergency remains complex, but is controlled by the Russian peace-keeping troops and North Ossetian law enforcement bodies.

Tatarstan Offers Mediation Between Moscow, Chechnya

LD2603194994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Tatarstan offers its services as a mediator at the negotiations between Russia and Chechnya.

In his exclusive interview with INTERFAX on Saturday Tatarstan's Vice Premier Vasily Likhachev declared that Kazan positively appreciates the start of the negotiations between Moscow and Groznyy. In his words, "We are happy with another aspects of the negotiations as well; the question concerns the fact that one of the factors which positively affect this process is the treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan, as both Moscow and Groznyy recognized."

"Given this factor and Tatarstan's growing political authority, I'd like to declare about our readiness, as well as about my private readiness, to take an active part in the development of bilateral agreements under the mutual approval of the delegations of the Russian Federation and Chechnya. Without substituting the efforts of the direct participants of the negotiations, we could render assistance in creation of an atmosphere of confidence, strengthening of the dialogue, and creation of a mechanism for permanent consultations of these parties," declared Likhachev.

In his words, Tatarstan's peacemaking efforts are grounded on a sound sense and the need to strengthen historic, cultural, and economic ties of the peoples and the strive to create democratic Russia.

"Tatarstan is ready for a mediation mission to solve other disputable issues on the territory of Russia and the CIS as well,—declared Likhachev.—We are ready to discuss the issue on opening of an Euro-Asian Center for International Cooperation in Kazan with all interested states and international organizations."

In his opinion, the nature of relations between Russia and Chechnya slightly differs from the relations between Tatarstan and Russia primarily "by a tougher position on the part of Groznyy and maximization of its demands." "The political and economic situation in Chechnya also differs from ours. But there are several factors which coincide," he noted.

Likhachev believes that the negotiations between Moscow and Groznyy must discuss a special status for Chechnya.

Former Chechen Premier Says Duma Decision 'Wise'

LD2803183294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1627 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy 28 Mar, TASS—A Chechen opposition leader praised today the State Duma's resolution on a political settlement between Russia and its self-styled Republic of Chechnya. The statement was adopted on Friday by Russia's lower house.

Yaragi Mamodayev, chairman of the government of national confidence dissolved by Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, told ITAR-TASS that the resolution "was wise if somewhat over-politicized."

Mamodayev praised the desire of the Russian lawmakers to resolve the problem strictly by peaceful means without turning to force. "That is what our government has been fighting for, and as we see now, not in vain," he said.

On the other hand, Mamodayev criticised the resolution for its appeal to the opposition forces in Chechnya. "We always insisted that our compatriots should not be divided into pro- and anti-president forces. On the contrary, we always called for consolidation around the idea of building the Chechen state," he said.

In its resolution, the State Duma suggested that President Yeltsin take measures to achieve a political settlement in relations between federal state bodies and the authorities of the Chechen Republic.

The resolution empowered the Russian Government to hold consultations with representatives of Chechen state bodies and political movements in order to overcome the current social and political problems, and to draft a powers-sharing treaty between Moscow and Groznyy.

The Duma called for the signing of such a treaty under the conditions that the Chechnya Republic hold free elections and recognise itself as a subject of the Russian Federation.

According to Mamodayev, it is unlikely that the present Chechen leadership will agree with the resolution. "For Dudayev himself to recognise that Chechnya is a part of Russia would be 'political harakiri'," he said.

Official Groznyy is surprisingly calm. Neither Dudayev nor any of his supporters commented on the resolution during the weekend.

Whatever their response might be, ITAR-TASS has learnt from a reliable source that a rather highly-ranked

Chechen delegation is getting ready to leave for Moscow, apparently to continue the negotiations with Russia which started last week.

Foreign Espionage Increasing in Bryansk Oblast

LD2503212594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Text] Spies are stepping up their activities in Russia and in Bryansk Oblast, however strange that might seem. The increased activities of foreign special services was noted by Maj-Gen. Vladimir Bobrovskiy, head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service directorate in Bryansk Oblast. Military and defense installations, as well as the region's military potential, are of special interest to them. For example, a hotel room was recently equipped as a center capable of monitoring the work of the technical services of a military aerodrome situated nearby. However, Bryansk's counterintelligence agents detained the visitors to the town in time.

Sakhalin Counterintelligence Assesses 1993

OW2803142794 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0815 GMT 10 Mar 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] The Sakhalin Oblast department of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service summed up the results of its operations for last year. According to the department's data, workers' efforts resulted in the halting of the illegal export by ship of 24 tonnes of nonferrous metals, 110 tonnes of Alaskan pollock roe, and a large quantity of marine products valued at 722 million rubles [R].

The investigation of criminal matters by the department's investigators last year resulted in the confiscation of R11,915,000, \$900,000 in U.S. currency, items and valuables worth R3.2 billion, 338 grams of marijuana, more than 15 kg of mercury, and a large quantity of ammunition. Counterintelligence operatives uncovered and prevented a number of attempts by using fake documents to defraud the oblast banks of an amount that altogether exceeded R4 billion. Federal Counterintelligence Service staffers estimate that as a result of their operations, they have prevented an economic loss to Russia totalling R5.8 billion.

According to information from the service's staffers, they are currently tracking the development of contacts between Japanese yakuza [Japanese underworld] and Russian mafia structures aimed at smuggling fish and marine products and establishing channels for delivering firearms and drugs to Japan using fishing vessels and the merchant fleet.

National Affairs**Joint Statement Issued on Election 'Violations'**

LD2903085294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Representatives of the Ukrainian public and political organizations in Crimea and the Crimean-Tatar National Movement Organization have issued a joint statement. The statement points out gross violations of the law in Crimea during the course of the election campaign and during the election itself. These include campaigning on the eve of election, the issue of several ballot papers to one person, the issue of ballot papers to people without identification, and pressure on the electoral commissions and voters exerted by representatives of the Rossiya bloc. The worst violation, the statement says, was the propaganda speech by president of Crimea, Yuriy Meshkov, on local television last Friday.

The authors of the statement are convinced that the situation in Crimea will continue to deteriorate if Yuriy Meshkov, his administration and the newly elected Supreme Council fail to work constructively to preserve peace and stability on the peninsula. Proceeding from this, the statement says, cooperation between Ukrainian and Crimean-Tatar organizations has acquired special significance. The Ukrainian organizations will be even more uncompromising in defending the interests of the Crimean Tatars through their central offices in Kiev and their deputies in Ukraine's Supreme Council. The Crimean-Tatar National Movement Organization will support Ukrainian organizations on the issues of preserving Ukraine's territorial integrity and consolidating Ukrainian statehood on the territory of Crimea.

Some Repeated Elections To Be Held; Further on Results

LD2803180194 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskv in Russian 1505 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Begin recording by Yelena Kulevich, Central Electoral Committee press service spokesman]. Repeated voting will be held in Kiev's 21 constituencies, in 18 constituencies in Crimea, in 32 constituencies in Dnepropetrovsk oblast, in six constituencies in Ivano-Frankovsk, in 17 constituencies in Vinnitsa, and in all four constituencies in Sevastopol. Why the repeated elections? Because not a single candidate has gathered 50 percent of votes. We had the situation when there were on average 13 candidates in each constituency. There were constituencies with 31 candidates, 32, or 28 candidates. It is very difficult to chose in such a situation. [end recording]

[Announcer] Altogether, about 40 deputies to a new parliament were elected in the first round of voting. Our correspondent has learned this at the republican embassy in Moscow. More details about the elections from Vadym Dolganov, press attache of the Ukrainian embassy in Moscow.

[Begin Dolganov recording] Those elected include the former Ukrainian prime minister, Leonid Kuchma. He gathered 91 percent of votes in his constituency in Dnepropetrovsk. Also in the lead is the current parliamentary speaker Ivan Plyushch. He also has splendid results - 71 per cent of votes. Furthermore, Volodymyr Pylypchuk, who headed the permanent commission on issues of economic reform, and the well-known Stepan Khmara also became deputies to the new parliament. The former vice premier Volodymyr Lanovy, an economist and reformer, also had a good lead. Dmytro Pavlychko, the chairman of the permanent commission on international issues of the former parliament, was not elected. [end recording]

[Announcer] The Ukrainian diplomat also stressed that none of the deputies was elected in Nikolayev oblast, and only one deputy in Zaporozhye. The second round of voting to the Ukrainian parliament is to be held in three weeks.

Crimea Elects Only One Deputy to Ukrainian Parliament

LD2803133794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1240 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Elections for the Supreme Council of Crimea have been held. Only one deputy was elected to the Simferopol, the Ukrainian parliament. According to information from the Central Electoral Commission of Crimea, valid elections for the Republic's Supreme Council have been held in 64 of the 66 constituencies. They were invalid in Yevpatoriya and Yalta constituencies, where fewer than 50 percent of the electorate turned up. Six deputies were elected in the first round of the territorial electoral districts, three of them in Kerch. All elected deputies are supporters of the "Rossiya" bloc. As Viktor Alsufyev, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of Crimea said on 28 March, the overwhelming majority of candidates who went through to the second round also belong to the "Rossiya" bloc.

According to preliminary reports, at the proportional elections (14 seats out of a total of 99) the "Rossiya" bloc won 65.7 percent; the Communist Party of Crimea, 10.9 percent; the Party for the Economic Revival of Crimea, 7 percent; the Union in Support of the Republic of Crimea, 3 percent; and the Crimean Party of Social Guarantees, 2.8 percent. In Sevastopol the elections were invalid in several districts. However, one deputy, Serhiy Shuryha, who is the owner of the Kondratyevskyy trading house, was elected in the first round. Figures for the national districts are still being computed. Members of the Central Electoral Commission of Crimea are forecasting with considerable conviction that more than 10 of the 14 seats will be occupied by representatives of the kurultay of the Crimean Tatar people.

The presidential team will take care of the opinion poll of Crimean citizens. As yet there are no final results. However, as representatives of the "Rossiya" bloc have said, over 70 percent of the electorate supported

Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov on all three questions. It is also estimated that more than 70 percent of the Crimean parliament's deputy corps will be controlled by the "Rossiya" bloc.

According to information from the Crimean parliament's apparatus, valid elections for the Supreme Council of Ukraine have been. Only one deputy was elected.

List of Deputies Elected in First Round; Run-off Contenders

LD2803165494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1240 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Preliminary results of the Supreme Council election as received by UNIAN from different sources:

Kiev City

Elected in the first round: Volodymyr Lanovyy, chairman of the Center for Market Reforms; Serhiy Holovatyy, chairman of the Ukrainian Lawyers Association, former people's deputy of Ukraine.

Runoffs: Ivan Saliy, former presidential representative in Kiev (27 percent), against Oleh Danyleyko, Ukrainian Republican Party (12 percent); Kostyantyn Morozov, former defense minister (25 percent), against Viktor Medvedchuk, chairman of Ukraine's Lawyers Union (26 percent); Ivan Zayets, former people's deputy of Ukraine, against Oleksandr Bondarchuk; Environment Minister Yuriy Kostenko against Semen Yufa, head of the Mercuriy company.

Lvov Oblast Elected in the first round: Viktor Pynzenyk, chairman of the Fund in Support of Reforms; Stepan Khmara, chairman of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party; Ihor Yukhnovskyy, academician, former people's deputy of Ukraine; Les Tanyuk, chairman of the All-Ukrainian Memorial Society, former people's deputy of Ukraine; Ihor Kolushko, Ukrainian Republican Party; Yaroslav Kendzyor, former people's deputy of Ukraine.

Runoffs: Larysa Skoryk, chairman of the Nationwide Movement of Ukraine, against Oleksandr Hudyma; Dmytro Chobit, People's Movement of Ukraine, former people's deputy of Ukraine, against Revachuk, Ukrainian Republican Party; Taras Stetskiy, nominated by the New Wave nonparty association, against Iryna Kalynets (both support parties of the national-democratic orientation); Oleksandr Holub, first secretary of the oblast Committee of Ukraine's Communist Party, against Oleksandr Shandruk and Mykola Horyn, chairman of the Lvov Oblast Council of People's Deputies; Oleksandr Lavrynovych, deputy chairman of the People's Movement of Ukraine, against Serhiy Zhyzhko, chairman of the Secretariat of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists.

Ternopil Oblast

Elected in the first round: Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the People's Movement of Ukraine (62.5 percent); Yuriy Tyma, head of the UNA-UNSO oblast branch (50.3 percent) Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast.

Run-offs: Roman Shpek, Ukraine's minister of economy (34.1 percent), against Vasyl Hrechanyk, adviser to the oblast Council of People's Deputies.

Volyn Oblast

Elected in the first round: Oleksandr Skipalskyy, head of the Military Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine's Defense Ministry (54.6 percent); Pavlo Vitsyak, member of Ukraine's Supreme Council Presidium.

Run-offs: Anton Buteyko, adviser to the president of Ukraine for international affairs, against Mykola Zhulynskyy, vice premier of Ukraine (28 percent).

Transcarpathian Oblast

Elected in the first round: Orest Klympush, Ukraine's transport minister.

Mykolayiv Oblast

Run-offs: Mykola Bashkyrov, Mykola Biloblotskyy, Ivan Hrytsay, all three former deputies of Ukraine; Viliya Pozdnykina, secretary of Ukraine's Communist Party Oblast Committee.

Odessa Oblast

Elected in the first round: Mykhaylo Myastkivskyy, secretary of Ukraine's Communist Party Oblast Committee;

Run-offs: Valentyn Symonenko, adviser to the president of Ukraine, against Volodymyr Kurinnyy, YUG newspaper economic observer; Serhiy Drahomaretskyy, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, against Vitaliy Dudchenko; Pavlo Kudyukin, head of the joint-stock Blasco-Black Sea Shipping Company, against journalist Oleksandr Shteyman; Viktor Shyshkin, former prosecutor general of Ukraine, against Volodymyr Pylypenko, Communist Party of Ukraine; Eduard Hurvits, chairman of Zhovtnevyi District Executive Committee, deputy chairman of the government Preparatory Committee for the Odessa Free Economic Zone, against Oleksiy Kostusev, leader of the Civic Forum, chairman of the city Privatization Committee.

Kharkov Oblast

Run-offs: Volodymyr Hrynyov, co-chairman of the Interregional Bloc of Reforms, against Valeriy Meshcheryakov, Kharkov University lecturer.

Chernihiv Oblast

Elected in the first round: Ivan Plyushch, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council (almost 72 percent); Leonid Kuchma, chairman of Ukraine's Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (over 90 percent).

Run-offs: Vitaliy Masol (47.5 percent); Mykhaylo Tush, chairman of the Komintern collective farm in Kulykivskyy rayon.

Cherkasy Oblast

Run-offs: Vitold Fokin, former prime minister of Ukraine (26.3 percent), against Serhiy Kyryachenko, director of the Rossiya state farm (17.3 percent).

Poltava Oblast

Run-offs: Mykhaylo Kovalko, chairman of the State Committee for Oil and Gas (37.8 percent), against Petro Vasylynka, head of the Hadyach Rayon Department of Education (13.8 percent); Vladyslav Tarashevskyy, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supplies (19.5 percent).

Donetsk Oblast

Elected in the first round: Yevhen Shcherban, businessman; Oleksiy Shekhovtsov, former people's deputy of Ukraine; Petro Symonenko, first secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine Central Committee.

Run-offs: Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, acting prime minister of Ukraine, against Heorhiy Buyko, secretary of the Donetsk Oblast Committee of the Communist party of Ukraine; Mykola Surhay, chairman of the State Committee for the Coal Industry, against Valeriy Kudinov, nominated by the Communist Party of Ukraine; Mykhaylo Krylov, member of the Donetsk Strike Committee, against Borys Kozhevnykov, first secretary of the Kuybyshevskyy Rayon Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine in Donetsk; Vadym Chuprun, chairman of the Donetsk Oblast Council, against Oleh Panasovskyy, nominated by the Communist Party of Ukraine.

Odessa Oblast

Run-offs to be held between: V. Yevdokimov and V. Anishchuk, A. Krupnyk and L. (?Vershynin), A. Prokopenko and B. Burtynskyy, V. Prokopenko and I. Tkachuk, A. Vasserman and Yu. Karmazin.

Cherkassy Oblast

Run-offs between: I. Kukuruza and S. Chervonopyskyy, S. Hubar and M. Syrota, Yuriy Karasyk and Vasyly Chornovil, O. Pukhhalo and A. Petelnny, V. Royenko and I. Domanskyy, O. Kachkalo and P. Pidhornyy, Ye. Parubok and V. Vasylichenko, S. Pasko and S. Dryzhchanskyy, O. Kravchuk and S. Okhramchuk, P. Dush-eyko, V. Nimchenko, O. Tkachenko, and Yu. Boyko.

Zhitomir Oblast

Elected in the first round: Yuriy Spizhenko.

Run-offs between: H. Mozer and V. Dekhtivskyy, S. Vasylichuk and V. Pataridze, A. Chikal and P. Peredriy, V. Yatsenko and N. Melnyk, V. Veselskyy and P. Horbatiuk, V. Serhiychuk and V. Semenyuk, S. Musiychuk and O. Bezditko, O. Vlasenko and N. Shadura, H. Sydorenko and Veremiychuk, N. Rudchenko and Vitaliy Zhyravskyy, V. Kalnyk and V. Sirosttan, and V. Datsyuk and Panasyuk.

Dnepropetrovsk Oblast

The elections were held in all of the electoral districts save for one, Apostolivskyy district, where only 49.4 percent voted. One deputy was elected in the first round: Yevhen Chulakov.

70 Percent Favor Treaty With Ukraine

LD2803161994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea are valid. Taking part in them were 60.24 percent of the electors. Elections to the Crimean Supreme Soviet were held according to party lists. According to figures from the Central Electoral Committee, quoted by news agencies, the Rossiya bloc received an overwhelming majority of votes compared to other parties.

Meanwhile, the president of the Crimea, commenting in an interview with INTERFAX on the results of the 27 March poll of inhabitants of the Crimea, said they were confirmation of the correctness of the course chosen by the leadership of the Crimea.

According to INTERFAX figures, more than 70 percent of Crimeans answered positively to all three questions on the poll sheet: That relations between the Crimea and the Ukraine should be built on a contractual basis, on dual citizenship, and on granting the force of law to the decrees of the Crimean president on questions of temporarily unregulated Crimean legislation.

Parliamentary Commission Officials Lose Seats in Elections

LD2903081394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1956 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—UNIAN learned on 28 March that a number of former chairmen of the parliament commissions have lost their seats in the election to the Supreme Council of Ukraine. These are:

Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission;

Pavlo Kyslyy, Chairman of the Science and Education Commission;

Andriy Pecherov, chairman of the Planning, Budget, Finance, and Prices Commission;

Valentyn Lemish, chairman of the Defense and State Security Commission;

Mykola Naumenko, chairman of the Commission for Veterans, Pensioners, Invalids, the Repressed, Low-Income Persons and the Military who Served Abroad;

Valentyn Tryzna, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Media at the Glasnost and Media Commission;

Mykhaylo Hryshko, chairman of the Commission for Councils of People's Deputies and Local Self-Government; and

Pavlo Vitsyak, chairman of the Health Care Commission.

More Rukh, Democrats in Second Round of Elections

LD2803210694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2043 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Marina Tar-navskaya for TASS]

[Text] Kiev 28 Mar, TASS—The real danger to the Ukrainian parliament, if it is elected, will come neither from extreme leftists nor rightists represented in it, but from the strength of "non-party nomenclature," which will hamper the creation of a clear cut structured parliament capable of conducting reforms, this apprehension was expressed by Ukraine's Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroika] Party leader Vyacheslav Chornovil. He was analysing the preliminary results of elections to the republic's Supreme Soviet at a press conference today.

According to Chornovil, far more candidates, supported by Rukh and democratic forces than were expected, have entered the second round of the elections to the Ukrainian parliament. The Rukh leader himself received over 62 per cent of the total number of votes cast today. The most important thing is not to let the second round of the elections disrupted, Vyacheslav Chornovil said.

When asked whether he will present himself as a candidate for the probable presidential elections, Chornovil said that this question will be decided at the second stage of the V Congress of Rukh scheduled to be held in the second half of April.

News Conference Held on Crimean Elections

LD2803223694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2115 GMT
28 Mar 94

[Text] Simferopol, 28 March—At the Crimean Supreme Council, Crimea's Central Electoral Commission and Parliament Chairman Viktor Alsufyev held a news conference on the Crimean Supreme Council election's preliminary results. He stressed that the elections of

deputies to the Supreme Council were valid. In single-seat territorial constituencies, six individuals won in the first round; they represent the Russia electoral bloc. The Russia bloc won 65.7 percent of the party list vote, Crimea's Communist Party 10.1 percent, Crimea's Party of Economic Revival 7 percent, the Union in Support of the Republic of Crimea three percent, and Crimea's Party of Social Guarantees 2.8 percent. Ethnic electoral districts were more active than on average across Crimea, except for the Bulgarian ethnic constituency. In Viktor Alsufyev's words, there were not any gross violations of the law in the course of the elections. Vyacheslav Lebedev, head of the Crimean presidential press service, has said the results of the poll on Crimea's status will be known within the next two days.

As for the results of the elections to the parliament of Ukraine, Oleksandr Krytnychenko, member of the electoral commission for the elections to Ukraine's parliament, has said the elections did take place in all Ukrainian electoral districts, including Sevastopol's No. 38, with 50.88 percent of the electorate having taken part.

Second Election Round Planned for 9-10 Apr

LD2803192694 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1755 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission expects to hold the second round of parliamentary elections on 9 and 10 April. This was reported to the press by the commission chairman Ivan Yemets.

However, "several district commissions suggest holding the second round already this week, on 2 April." In these circumstances the Central Commission is not going to insist on its opinion, Yemets said. Moreover, district commissions will have a chance to hold elections at a time suitable for them.

"They will be free to organize voting this weekend or the next, but 10 April is the latest possible date under the law," the official said.

According to preliminary reports from district commissions, 47 out of 450 members of the new parliament were elected in the first round. Thus, a second round of voting will be held in 403 electoral districts.

Fourteen of the elected members of parliament are Socialists and Communists. They were elected mostly in Donetsk, Lugansk and other eastern regions.

Thirteen members from Western Ukraine belong to national-democratic organizations.

There are also two members of the radical Ukrainian National Assembly.

Rukh Leader Terms Election Results Successful

*LD2803200494 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1755 GMT 28 Mar 94*

[Text] The leader of the Ukrainian nationalist movement Rukh, Vyacheslav Chernovil, described the results of the first round of parliamentary elections in Ukraine as a success for democratic forces. At a news conference in Kiev Monday, he pointed out that candidates of Rukh and the democratic bloc had been either elected or passed on to the second round of the elections in most constituencies of the Republic.

"There is hope that the new Supreme Soviet will be better and it will be possible to structure it by creating factions and blocs," Chernovil said. He pointed out that these elections were more free and democratic than before. However, numerous violations which influenced the electors' choice in favor of the ruling party had been revealed, according to Chernovil.

"Rukh will react calmly to any change in the timing of Ukrainian presidential elections," Chernovil was quoted as saying. He added that it was ridiculous to elect the head of the state without defining his legislative powers beforehand. However, Rukh insists that the election day must be set exactly so that either the old, or the new parliament could pass the necessary laws. At the same time, Chernovil spoke against granting the Ukrainian president extra powers.

The Rukh leader believes that the results of the opinion polls in the Donets Basin and the Crimea will have no legal force. "If the leaders of the state hold firm and stick to the law, everything will take its course as it should in a democratic country," he said.

Rossiya Bloc Victor in Crimea Poll

*PM2903093594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
29 Mar 94 p 1*

[Report by Nikolay Semena: "Crimea: 'Rossiya' Party Bloc Wins Elections"]

[Text] Simferopol—According to preliminary information, the greatest number of deputies' seats at the elections to the Crimean Supreme Council held 27 March were won by the "Rossiya" bloc of parties. The Communist Party of Crimea was in second place, and the Party for the Economic Revival of Crimea came third. Around 59 percent of the 1.8 million voters took part in the elections.

Results of Crimea, Ukraine Polls Reported

*PM2903112794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
29 Mar 94 p 1*

[Report by Nikolay Musiyenko: "Crimea: 'Russia' Bloc in Lead"]

[Text] Elections of deputies of the parliament of Crimea were validly held in this peninsular Republic on Sunday. I was told at the Central Electoral Commission that 1,873,805 people—58.83 percent of those included on the lists—participated in the voting. According to preliminary data, candidates for the "Russia" bloc are leading in single-seat districts. The bloc's nominee, incidentally, is Yuriy Meshkov, Crimea's current president. Representatives of the Crimean Communist Party are in second place.

Regarding the elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Council, also announced for 27 March, it is too soon to speak even of their preliminary results. As of 1600 on that day, voting papers had been issued to 52 percent of Crimea's citizens. This certainly does not mean, however, that they all ended up inside the ballot boxes: On the eve of the elections many Crimean parties and movements were actively encouraging their supporters to obtain voting papers but not to take them away rather than casting them.

On Yuriy Meshkov's initiative a poll of Crimeans on their attitude toward a treaty basis in relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine, dual citizenship, and imparting the force of law to a number of Crimean presidential edicts was held simultaneously with the parliamentary elections. As is known, the idea of such a poll elicited a highly negative reaction from the Kiev authorities, being deemed by them to run counter to the Ukrainian Constitution. Therefore, the Crimean Central Electoral Commission was not involved in organizing the poll. Nor is it involved in counting the votes—presidential power structures have taken on the fulfillment of this task. I have learned that the majority of those who came to vote replied in the affirmative to the questions put to them, thereby voicing confidence in the president's program for extricating the Republic from the crisis.

Republic Election Results Detailed

*PM2903104994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
29 Mar 94 p 1*

[Report by Mariya Starozhitskaya of UNIAN, specially for IZVESTIYA: "Elections to Ukrainian Parliament Successful. Main Contenders for Presidential Post Have Become Deputies"]

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine has made its choice. The elections were invalid in only three electoral districts out of 450. There was a record result—a 92-percent turnout—in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast, and there was a 70-percent turnout in the western oblasts in general. Over 60 percent of voters turned up at the polling places in Donetsk, Kharkov, Zaporozhye, and Odessa Oblasts.

From what Peter Emery, head of a CSCE delegation, who had been on duty at one of Kiev's polling places, said, "the elections were sufficiently honest and democratic."

As for the second round—and, according to predictions, no more than 70 candidates will get into parliament at the first attempt—Ivan Plyushch, head of the current Supreme Council, promised that this will be held no later than 10 April, and that the Central Electoral Commission may possibly schedule a repeat vote for next Sunday.

Incidentally, according to an INTERFAX report, Plyushch himself has already become a deputy, having collected over 60 percent of the votes in his district. Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil had the same lead. Among the candidates [former Ukrainian Premier] Leonid Kuchma obtained the greatest number of votes—over 91 percent of those who voted (there was a 96-percent turnout in Novgorod-Severskiy district). I. Yuhnovskiy, V. Pinzenik, S. Khmara, L. Tanyuk, and V. Lanovoy became deputies at the first attempt. For their part, Acting Prime Minister Yu. Zvyahilskyy, Supreme Council Deputy Chairman V. Durdinets, and Socialist Party Head A. Moroz will continue their fight in the second round.

According to Chornovil, none of the political forces will win the current elections—the nonparty nomenklatura will make its presence felt. “I am beginning to believe in the existence of Kravchuk’s legendary list,” the Rukh leader said. “In practically every district there are representatives of the party in power: All the vice prime ministers, many ministers, presidential representatives, and heads of local administrations have been running in the elections, and even the democrats ‘affiliated to power’ are fighting the opposition democrats in the districts.”

First Round of Elections Declared Valid

LD2903105194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1026 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev 29 Mar, TASS—The final results of elections to the Ukrainian parliament will be announced at a news conference of the Central Electoral Committee on Tuesday.

The elections held last Sunday have been found valid in all the 450 one-seat districts, although in the run-up to the elections, many politicians, including President Kravchuk, have not been sure of sufficient voter turnout.

Some 75 per cent of voters on an average have cast their ballots, according to preliminary returns. Voter turnout in Kiev was considerably less, approximately 56 per cent of the eligible voters. There was the highest voter turnout in Western regions, where, as expected, candidates from nationalist forces won.

There is a different picture in eastern Ukraine. In the Donetsk and the Lugansk regions, out of the 14 deputies who won in the first round, eleven will represent the Communist Party of Ukraine in the Supreme Soviet.

First secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine Petr Simonenko was also elected deputy of the Supreme Soviet.

Only a small part of the future deputies corps, some 70 people have been elected to the Supreme Soviet on the first round, according to preliminary results. The date for the second round has not yet been fixed. Informed sources say, however, that it will be held not later than 10 April.

Most of those who have been elected to parliament in the first round are prominent politicians. Former premier Leonid Kuchma who favours stronger ties with Russia earned the biggest number of votes. Ninety-one per cent of voters in the district where he ran cast their ballots for him. The voter turnout in the Novgorod-Severskiy district where he ran was 96 per cent. Among those who have been elected to parliament are the present parliamentary speaker Ivan Plyushch, former deputy prime minister Viktor Pizenik, leader of extreme nationalists Stepan Khmara and other politicians prominent in Ukraine.

Foreign observers who monitored the election believe there have been no serious violations of democratic procedure.

Foreign Observers Deem Elections ‘Democratic’

WS2903104794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program
Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The democratic and well-organized nature of the elections to Ukraine’s Supreme Council was emphasized by the delegation of observers from the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly during the news conference held in Kiev yesterday. Our correspondent Ihor Bak reports:

[Begin Bak recording] Members of this delegation which arrived in Ukraine on 24 March—including well-known politicians from a number of European countries—have had the opportunity to obtain information, so to speak, first hand, in particular from the head of the Supreme Council, the head of the Central Electoral Commission, representatives of political parties, etc. Members of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation visited Zhytomir, Lvov, Donetsk, and a number of other oblasts, in addition to Kiev.

On 27 March, that is, on the day of elections, the parliamentarians of foreign countries observed the progress of the elections in 80 constituencies, including those located in military units. Thus, having informed Ukrainian and foreign journalists of their conclusions, the foreign observers emphasized that the elections in Ukraine were held in accordance with Ukraine’s law on the elections of Ukraine’s people’s deputies and with a high rate of citizen participation. They were gratified to note that the elections were held on an alternative basis [alternatyvna osnova]. However, at the same time, they stated that a great number of candidates for deputy seats in many constituencies caused serious troubles in the

process of voting. Because of this, electors made mistakes during the voting, and a significant number of election ballots was found invalid. In spite of this, Peter Emery, head of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation, said during the news conference that we can state that the Ukrainian elections were democratic and successful. [end recording]

Meshkov's Edict on Military 'Unlawful'

*AU2803171594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
25 Mar 94 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Yet Another Unlawful Edict Issued by Yu. Meshkov"]

[Text] President of the Crimean Republic Yuriy Meshkov has issued an edict to have all the conscripts of the spring call-up do their military service in the Crimea only. The acting prime minister of the Crimea, Anatoliy Franchuk, and Military Commissioner Oleksandr Volkov were authorized to implement the edict. In this connection, Volkov told our correspondent that he had received the edict in the evening of 23 March. Just like Ukraine's Defense Minister Radetsky, with whom O. Volkov discussed the subject, he considers the edict absolutely unlawful. "We will act in conformity with Ukraine's legislation," stressed Volkov. "As before, 80 percent of the conscripts will serve outside the Crimea and 20 percent (those found unfit for health reasons and the Crimean Tatars) will serve in the Crimea."

More Criticism of Military Independence

*LD2603173394 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1347 GMT 26 Mar 94*

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Kiev on Saturday [26 March], Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Bizhan said the Defense Ministry instructed the Crimea's Military Commissar to reject the recent order on army drafts by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. Meshkov ruled that Crimean conscripts serve only on Crimean territory.

On Friday, Bizhan visited Sebastopol to meet with the command of the Ukrainian Navy and the Crimea's Military Commissar.

He denied the Crimean authorities the right to make decisions on drafts to the Ukrainian armed forces. But he said the order, by which the Ukrainian Defense Minister allowed up to 20 percent of the Crimean draftees to serve on the peninsula, remained in force and those who could motivate their desire to stay to serve in their home region, would be allowed to stay.

Also on Friday in Sebastopol Bizhan met with the Russian Navy's chief-of-staff Admiral Selivanov. According to Bizhan, several senior officers of the Russian Navy arrived in Sebastopol without coordinating that move with the Ukrainian leaders.

Addressing the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, Bizhan said his Ministry wanted to take stock of the Fleet's property and study all the angles of that problem before preparing an agreement on the transfer of the Fleet under Russian command in payment for the fuel debt Ukraine was running with Russia. Preparatory work could show, said Bizhan, it would make no sense for Ukraine to sign that kind of an agreement with Russia. On the other hand, Moscow saw the problem as practically settled and was willing to discuss in detail the transfer of the Black Sea Fleet under its command.

In Bizhan's view, Moscow was violating a number of earlier agreements. Russian symbols were used by the Fleet and the decision was disregarded that the Fleet's vessels be manned in equal proportion by Russian and Ukrainian sailors.

According to Bizhan, 810th Marine brigade, with base in Sebastopol, was manned exclusively by Russian citizens. If it was recognized as all-Russian, the brigade would have to be removed, without delay, from Ukrainian territory.

Servicemen 'Will Not Obey' Meshkov

*WS2803165494 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in
Ukrainian 1443 GMT 28 Mar 94*

[Interview with Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Bizhan by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Ivan Vasilyevych, you have just returned from the Crimea. The most acute problem facing your branch is the order issued by President of the Crimean Autonomy [as heard] Meshkov regarding the military service of Crimean residents on Crimean territory. What are your impressions and assessments of this development?

[Bizhan] Your question is right. Really, it is very important that such a question has been raised. This is why the [defense] minister resolved so forcefully and quickly to send a group to the Crimea headed by the deputy defense minister to immediately, so to say, examine the situation on the spot.

My impressions are the following. I am very glad that our military structures—including the Crimea's military commissar, the military commissar of Sevastopol, the command of our Navy and Air Force, and the 32d Corps Command—understand it in such a way as they should understand: This order is unlawful, has no underlying legal basis, and is not subject to being obeyed. They will not obey it. That is to say, it is not necessary today to conduct work with this commanding structure to elucidate the position of the defense minister. Therefore, after my return, I was glad to report to the defense minister that we have conscious and aware people there—they are Ukrainian citizens, real and true, and they will comply to

Ukraine's laws and the instructions of our supreme commander of the Armed Forces and the defense minister. [passage omitted]

Russian Gas Supplies Offset Turkmenistan's Halted Exports

*WS2903092894 Kiev UKRINFORM in English
0452 GMT 29 Mar 94*

["Russian Gas Supplies Offset 80 Percent of Turkmenistan's Discontinued Gas Export to Ukraine"—UKRINFORM headline; From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 13, 21-27 Mar 94]

[Text] According to Ukgazprom's sources, Russia's natural gas supplies to Ukraine during the 11-24 March period of 1994 continued to exceed the amount, which was earlier agreed by the two parties.

Thus, factual natural gas supplies over the above period amounted to 2,445.2 million cu. m. [cubic meters] versus the expected figure of 1,606.8 million cu. m.

Turkmenistan's natural gas exports to Ukraine, which were stopped on February 22, have not been resumed, the negotiation process underway notwithstanding. Turkmenistan is reported as adamant in its decision not to resume its natural gas supplies to Ukraine before Ukraine has repaid its debt for Turkmen natural gas supplies in 1993.

Under the thus repudiated agreement the Central Asian nation was to supply 1,087.1 million cu. m. of natural gas to Ukgazprom during the 11-24 March period.

As a result of an agreement, which the Ukrainian [word indistinct] reached with Russia's Gazprom joint-stock society on 10 March, the Russian party undertook to

supply additional natural gas to Ukraine in amounts sufficient to temporarily offset about 80 per cent of what Turkmenistan would have supplied to Ukraine, had it not discontinued natural gas exports to Ukraine.

The agreement will remain effective until 10 April, when Russia and Ukraine are supposed to hold talks about their account settling. Gazprom is reported to have laid down its terms, which the two [word indistinct] have refused to make public, though. It has been tipped off, however, that the Ukrainian party has been discussing not only a compromise decision, but also its likely having to accept the Russian party's terms, if the former variant proves impossible.

According to Ukgazprom, the Russian party has been sticking to its temporary commitment almost fully and unswervingly having supplied additional 837.4 million cu. m. of natural gas between 11 and 24 March, which is about 77.2 per cent of the amount Ukraine was supposed to be supplied by Turkmenistan.

Ukraine's natural gas consumption over the same period was 4,096.8 million cu. m. versus the expected figure 4,747.4 million cu. m., according to Ukgazprom, due both to the warmer weather conditions and more stringent fuel- and power saving moves by the government along with some enterprises having transferred to alternative fuels.

As spokespersons of the Ukrainian State Committee for oil and gas maintain, despite these temporarily stabilized natural gas supplies to Ukraine, the overall situation remains rather precarious because of Ukraine's faulty and inefficient fuel clearance system and the fuel consumers' formidable domestic indebtedness. Moreover so, that the outcome of the 10 April talks with Russia is too hard to predict.

Belarus

Hryb Congratulates Officials Upon Signing Constitution

WS2803135194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 28 Mar 94

["Excerpts" of speech by Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb at the signing ceremony of the Belarusian Constitution in Minsk on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed Prime Minister, Supreme Soviet Presidium members, deputies, and journalists!

We have invited you to participate today in the solemn signing of our first Constitution—the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus—which we adopted at the 14th session of the Supreme Soviet on 15 March. I have repeatedly noted that the Constitution was worked out during two and a half years with the participation of all members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, who also acted as members of the Constitutional Commission. Also participating in the work on the Constitution were the majority of our deputies, the government, leading lawyers and scientists of our Republic, and the voters, who came forward with many proposals and remarks after the draft Constitution was published in the media. All this was taken into account, and it contributed to the adoption of the Constitution in the present form.

I would like to point out that this Constitution emphasizes and protects civil and human rights for the first time. The Constitution, for the first time in the Republic of Belarus, defines our political system. It has pronounced that Belarus will be a presidential republic. Tomorrow, we will debate legislation concerning elections of the first president of the Republic of Belarus.

The Constitution, for the first time in history, approves the Constitutional Court, which has not existed in our public life, and includes an entire range of other proposals.

Therefore, before signing the Constitution, I would like to congratulate all members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, the government, all people's deputies, people who participated in the work, and all citizens upon the adoption of this important, basic law in the life of our Belarusian people. I believe that the Constitution will become the first, extremely important step toward strengthening the independence of our state—the Republic of Belarus.

Says Belarus May Join Interparliamentary Union

LD2803182394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1545 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Iazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk 28 Mar, TASS—Belarus has applied to the Inter-parliamentary Union for membership.

Belarusian Parliament Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb did not rule out the possibility that the request may be granted in the near future. This will allow Belarus to attend the second conference of the Inter-parliamentary Union to be held in September as a full member.

The announcement was made at a news conference in Minsk on Monday. Hryb spoke about the participation of a CIS Inter-parliamentary Assembly delegation in the first conference of the Inter-parliamentary Union in Paris. He noted that full membership of this organization is very important for Belarus from the political point of view because it will enable it to draw the attention of the international community to its needs and problems, including the cleaning up of the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster.

Asked if he had discussed in Paris with Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council of Russia's Federal Assembly, the integration of the monetary systems of the two countries, Hryb replied in the negative. He noted that these matters are the prerogative of the executive bodies of power—the governments of Russia and Belarus.

Hryb voiced concern about the present situation which has paralyzed industry and trade. "Further delays in this issue will do no good to either side. If it cannot be done this way, we must work out a new bilateral agreement—a comprehensive treaty between the two states," Hryb said.

He stressed that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet has already made up its mind—it has set up a commission led by First Deputy Parliament Chairman Vyacheslav Kuznetsov to work out such an agreement.

Announces Membership Bid in Union

WS2803202194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The Republic has applied for membership in the Interparliamentary Union. It is not ruled out that this request will be satisfied in the near future, and as early as September, a Belarusian delegation will be able to participate as a full member in the Second Conference of the Interparliamentary Union. This was announced today by Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb during a news conference devoted to the results of the work of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly's delegation at the First Conference of the Interparliamentary Union in Paris. He pointed out that the joining of the world's oldest interparliamentary organization by Belarus will be very beneficial in a political aspect, because of the possibility to draw more global attention to the problems of our Republic, including those connected with dealings with the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster. Answering a question as to whether he discussed in Paris with Vladimir Shumeyko any possible scenarios for uniting

monetary systems [with Russia], Mechyslaw Hryb answered in the negative. According to him, talks [on this topic] are in the competence of the Executive Branch—namely, the Governments of Belarus and Russia.

Defense Minister Denies Criminal Allegations

LD2803201794 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1755 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Belarus's defense minister has denied his involvement in the illicit operations of businesses run by his ministry.

Colonel-General Pavel Kozlovskiy told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview that he was going to ask the law-enforcement authorities to carry out a proper investigation and, after its results are made public, to bring a defamation of character suit against Aleksandr Lukashenko, head of the Provisional Parliamentary Anticorruption Commission, who accused him of illegal dealings.

Kozlovskiy said some of the executives in Defense Ministry companies had indeed committed offenses, but that all of them had been "punished."

He said Lukashenko's accusations were groundless because, "following the logic of Lukashenko, formerly manager of a state farm and nowadays chairman of the Commission for Fighting Corruption, he himself could have been dismissed from his rural managerial post immediately after an anonymous report came in that a pailful of formula feed had been stolen from one of his pigsties."

"The defense minister cannot be responsible for the behavior of each soldier and officer of the Belarussian army, which is nearly 100,000 strong, any more than a factory manager can bear personal responsibility for the personal integrity of each of his workers, of whom there may be many thousands," Kozlovskiy said, describing Lukashenko's accusations as "an attempt to draw the army into political intrigues and destabilize the situation in the Republic during the presidential election campaign."

Asked whether the Defense Ministry needed to have its own businesses, Kozlovskiy said the funds the Armed Forces were receiving from the state were "clearly insufficient." "In order to keep the army from being ruined and strangled financially we are forced to use, for example, the potential of transport aircraft for the commercial transportation of cargo," he said.

Meanwhile, the prime minister's spokesman Vladimir Zametalin told INTERFAX another five members of government accused by Lukashenko of various offenses were going to bring defamation of character suits. They are Deputy Premiers Nikolay Kostikov and Stanislav Bril, Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Vladimir Radkevich, and National Bank Chairman Stanislav Bogdankevich.

German Delegation Completes Visit, Issues Communiqué

WS2903083394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 0400 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] There are no problems between Belarus and Germany that would divide our countries, Bundestag State Secretary Berndt Wiltz told a BELINFORM correspondent. He visited our Republic as head of a German Defense Ministry delegation. The main goal of this visit was to improve military cooperation between the two states. As a result of this visit, a joint communiqué was signed on the continued development of military cooperation. The communiqué point outs that intensive contacts aimed at improving security and military cooperation are regarded by the two sides as a constructive contribution to international stability and peace according to the UN statute, the Helsinki agreement, and the Paris Charter for New Europe.

Premier Accused of Using State Funds for Campaigning

LD2803200194 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1637 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Head of the interim Anti-Corruption Commission of the Belarussian Parliament Aleksandr Lukashenko has accused Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich of helping himself to government funds to finance his own campaign for the presidency.

In an interview with INTERFAX in Minsk, Lukashenko said his commission had evidence that the prime minister was trying to "syphon off part of government resources to commercial banks."

The official also maintains that Kebich started his unofficial election campaign six weeks ago by suspending local subsidies and agreeing after private meetings to provide them with regional administrators in exchange for a promise to back his candidacy.

Lukashenko also said that the Prime Minister had already set up his own election office on the basis of existing government structures.

Moldova

President Snegur Denies Russians Leaving Republic

LD2803175894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The rumors circulating about Russians leaving Moldova are without foundation, President Mircea Snegur has said. He described the rumors as tendentious. At a meeting today with leaders of Tarakliyskiy Rayon, which has a large population of Bulgars, Mircea Snegur also mentioned the examination of the population's knowledge of the state language planned for 2 April. In

his opinion, the timing should be considered for a last time in the new Parliament.

Majority Party Supports Premier, Speaker

*LD2803195794 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1755 GMT 28 Mar 94*

[Text] In Moldova the Agrarian-Democratic Party that won the majority in the new parliament plans to propose that Prime-Minister Andrei Sangheli and speaker of parliament Pyotr Luchinski keep their posts. The intentions were reported to INTERFAX on Monday by the party leader Dmitri Motspan.

"We believe Sangheli and Luchinski are will be able to cope with the tasks facing them, form a team of professionals, live up to the hopes of voters and carry out the election promises of our party," he said. According to Motspan, the two leaders were on the ticket of his party.

He said the main items on the agenda of the session of parliament beginning on Tuesday will be the draft constitution, the status of the Dniester river valley and areas populated by the Gagauzi as well as the election of the speaker and his deputies. He also felt that a set of economic matters would also be discussed.

On interaction with the opposition the majority leader said that his party is ready to take part in drafting a law on the opposition. "Such a law is necessary, there should be an opposition, but the principles of its functioning should not be anti-government," Motspan believes.

New Parliament Meets; Party Platforms Outlined

*LD2903090894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0747 GMT 29 Mar 94*

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev 29 Mar, TASS—The new Moldovan parliament, which was for the first time elected on a

multi-party basis, met here today. It includes 104 parliament members. Most of them (56) represent the Agrarian-Democratic Party, which won the February 27 elections. The Agrarians hold that the parliament should first of all adopt a new constitution, create a legislative basis for economic reforms, and resolve the Dniester and Gagauz problem by granting a special legal status to those territories.

The bloc of Socialists and the International Movement adhere to a very similar stand. They won 28 parliament seats due to the backing of the Russian-speaking population. Without calling in question the proposals of the Agrarian-Democrats, the Socialists believe that the parliament should first of all ratify all the agreements on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and on the economic union, should stop state language tests, feared by the non-indigenous population.

They will be opposed by the Christian-Democratic People's Front and the bloc of Peasants and Intellectuals, a group which has split away from the front. They both call for unification with Romania. The front and the group have lost the trust of the electors and now have only nine and 11 parliamentary seats respectively. The split-away group is headed by ex-speaker Aleksandr Moshanu. These parties oppose the ratification of the CIS agreements, regarding them as an "attempt to revive the Soviet empire". However, the 20 seats they have in the new parliament will not give them a chance to effectively influence Moldova's policy.

Petr Luchinskiy, one of the leaders of the Agrarian-Democratic Party, which has won the parliamentary elections, is expected to be elected parliament speaker. He is 54 years old and had formerly been first secretary of the central committee of the Communist Party of Moldavia and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Last year, after an acute parliamentary crisis, he was elected speaker of the previous Moldovan parliament. However, it was impossible to save that parliament which was elected during the Soviet period and which was torn asunder by contradictions. It had to be dissolved ahead of schedule.

Tajikistan

Government Delegation Leader on Talks With Opposition

LD2803170594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] We are ready to hold talks with representatives of different political forces who sincerely wish peace and tranquility in the ancient Tajik land and are ready for practical talks, said Minister of Labor and Employment Shukurjon Zuhurov, who has been appointed head of the government delegation to the talks with representatives of the opposition, in an interview with a correspondent of the Khovar news agency

Zuhurov stressed that the whole population of the country is happy to hear the news pertaining to the start of the talks as these talks were going to take place sooner or later. Our people are famous for their feelings of friendship and foresight over the centuries. It is no secret that the United Nations, the Russian Foreign Ministry—in the person of First Deputy Minister Adamishin—and some other international organizations rendered great assistance to us.

I would like especially to point out the position of Emomali Rakhmonov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan. He has several times announced at the highest forums that the leadership of the country was ready for talks.

Speaking about the main aims of the talks, Shukurjon Zuhurov expressed the opinion that it was expected to discuss the issues related to stabilization of the situation of the republic, in particular the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, in the course of the talks. The government delegation includes 10 representatives of all the regions of the republic. It is expected that the inter-Tajik talks will take place in the capital of the Russian Federation in April of the current year.

Opposition Said Preparing Attacks on Russian Guards

LD2803151094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Tajikistan's armed opposition is preparing to subject Russian-manned posts on one of the sections of the republic's border with Afghanistan to mortar attacks in response to a stepping-up of measures to secure that stretch of the border, the press bureau of the Russian border guards in Tajikistan told INTERFAX.

In some areas along that part of the border, which is close to the town of Khorog, the opposition also plans to lay mines made of explosives stolen from state storehouses, the bureau said. It said the border guard command had launched a set of measures to ensure the safety of troops and stabilize the situation on the Khorog section of the border.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan's Economic Plight Viewed

PM2803112494 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Mar 94 p 5

[Report by correspondent Grigoriy Kolodin: "The Manat Has Prompted Respect for...the Ruble"]

[Text] Turkmenia—It has been nearly five months since the introduction of the national currency in Turkmenia—the manat. That is certainly long enough to consider the initial results of the circulation of the new money and what effect this unavoidable step has had on the country's economy. It was indeed unavoidable, although banknotes and coins manufactured beforehand in Britain, were ready and waiting, but the government thought that at that time Turkmenia was not yet fully prepared for the switch to its own currency. It was only when it became obvious that the Russian authorities were planning to force their CIS neighbors out of the ruble zone that Turkmenia accelerated the introduction of the manat.

November was a month of euphoria and...empty pocketbooks. The exchange of citizens' savings was carried out in such a way as to drastically reduce the money supply. However, even with a mere handful of coins in his pocket, a person felt quite solvent. For 5 kopeks (that is what people here habitually call the small change—the tenge) you could buy the latest newspaper or eat a bread roll, and for 20 you could buy a loaf or stick of wheaten bread. With 2 chervonets, you could buy 10 eggs, some green vegetables, and a couple of kilograms of apples. Potatoes cost 1 manat, and, just as in the good old days of stagnation, traders would stick cardboard price tickets into their piles of late melons, saying "1 melon—1 ruble." And although, after the first pay packets were issued in the new money, the Turkmen learned to count their small change in a new way, for an average wage of 400 manats you could not only feed yourself, but also buy, say, a pair of Italian shoes for 110 manats or a washing machine for 120 manats.

Alas, November and December, when the family budget was "tight" but you could fill a bag with food products for a small sum, are remembered here today as months of plenty and days of bright hopes which, unfortunately, are not yet fated to become reality. In Turkmenia it is still not the custom to publish information on the inflation rate or to calculate the cost of the consumer basket, but every inhabitant of the Republic can see for himself every day how life is growing increasingly expensive. Meat prices in the bazaars have risen from 5 to 50 manats a kilogram, the cost of fruit and vegetables has also gone up, for the third month in succession the shelves of stores selling industrial products are practically empty, and in the few commercial stores the prices are certainly not suited to people who are living only on a wage. And without the continuing government subsidies on flour and bread for the population, so that bread

still costs 20-30 tenge, without the free provision of electricity, natural gas, and water and the very low cost of housing, of sending children to preschool institutions, and of travel on public transport, things would be very tight indeed for the Turkmen.

It is certainly not the manat as such that is to blame for the fact that the Republic, which in all previous years had a deficit-free budget, is today spending more than it receives. The financial hole in the state's pocket was caused by the huge debts of the former brothers in the Union for natural gas supplied in the past year. It is no joking matter that Turkmenia is owed \$1.5 billion by Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and the other CIS countries—a shortfall of nearly 380 “greenbacks” for every local inhabitant. The main debtors—Ukraine and Georgia—asked for their last year's debt of \$700 million and \$200 million respectively to be classified as a Turkmen Government loan. Their wishes were accommodated, but the first two months of this year elapsed without either Ukraine or Georgia keeping its promise—to pay for gas every 10 days. It was necessary to resort to extreme measures and close the valves on the pipelines to Ukraine. But apparently the Ukrainian authorities are today more worried about the purely internal political struggle and the disastrous decline of their own economy.

President Saparmurad Niyazov and his team are intensively seeking a way out of the crisis situation. Preparations have been stepped up for the implementation if the plan for a gas pipeline which will convey Turkmen natural fuel via Iran and Turkey to Europe. The possibility of pumping gas through Afghanistan to Pakistan is being examined. A major reform of the agrarian sector is under way: More than 50,000 hectares of formerly unused land has been handed over to private ownership.

But for the moment the manat remains a sideshoot of the dollar and the ruble. Its real rate is falling rapidly. Having ostensibly been set as equivalent to 50 cents and 500 Russian rubles in November, today it only runs to 1 cent and 20 rubles. The lack of Russian currency in the banks has been a severe blow to state and business structures, which are 80 percent “tied” to Russia. Contracts are being broken, former links are being lost, and business circles can be heard increasingly frequently dreaming: “If only we were back in the ruble area! We cannot survive without Russia yet...”

As for survival, this is, of course, a slight exaggeration. But common sense and the example of Belorussia [Belarus] suggests that it is not a question of what picture there is on the banknotes, but of preventing them from degenerating into pretty colored candy wrappers.

Niyazov Scraps State, Collective Farms

LD2803202194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] State and collective farms are being abolished in Turkmenistan, President Saparmurad Niyazov

announced at a conference of the Republic's agroindustrial complex today. State and collective farms will be turned into cooperatives and other peasants associations of various forms of ownership.

Niyazov Comments on Military Doctrine

LD2803174194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1451 GMT 28 Mar 94

[From the “Presidential Bulletin” feature: No. 59 (549); Compiled by Nikolay Zhrebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] “Russia has military strategic interests in Turkmenia [Turkmenistan] which we must respect. They do not go against our independence. At the same time, we have the strategic interest of being together with Russia and cooperating with it in the military sphere. This does not contradict the interests of third countries,” Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov told the Military Council, speaking about the military doctrine.

To quote Niyazov, Turkmenistan's military doctrine is of purely defense nature. Giving preference to legal, economic and other non-military means of settling conflicts, Turkmenia will adhere to the principle of “positive neutrality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.”

According to the doctrine, Turkmenia will not treat any state as a potential enemy. Nor will it join any military bloc, or keep foreign troops on its territory. (However, after his speech, Niyazov welcomed Russian specialists' participation in the development of the Turkmen armed forces—INTERFAX).

Turkmenistan will be a nuclear-free state and will not equip its troops with weapons of mass destruction.

The main sources of danger threatening Turkmenistan are local conflicts, the threat of using weapons of mass destruction, attacks on Turkmenistan's facilities, border conflicts, military buildup in the neighboring countries' border regions and international terrorism.

Priority is given to the broadening of military cooperation with the neighboring states, above all Russia.

According to the doctrine, an army grouping is to be created in Turkmenistan and a mixed procedure of shaping the armed forces (contracts and drafting) is to be introduced. The Turkmen armed forces are to be reorganized by 1999. Priority importance will be attached to the air-defense units, and to “rapid forces capable of fast re-dislocation.

Niyazov said that the Turkmen armed forces' strength would be within the limits of reasonable sufficiency—37,000 men. The current armed forces will therefore be cut down by 2000 men.

The program for reorganizing the defense ministry, announced on 1 January, provides for establishing a

defense and security council led by the president. The Council will also consist of Vice Premier Boris Shikhmuradov (deputy head of the Council), the heads of the local administrations, the leaders of the power ministries and the ministers of justice and foreign affairs. The Council will analyze the situation in the Republic and provide recommendations.

The president also proposed setting up a general staff (375 members), a staff for the armaments and the rear (225 members), and the command of the air force, air defense and land troops.

Niyazov welcomed cooperation with the Rosvooruzheniya (Russian arms industry) corporation and announced that a center for repairing helicopters and factories for the production of military clothes and footwear would be built. He said that in exchange for supplies, the Rosvooruzheniya will receive 6 Bn cubic meters of gas.

Uzbekistan

Envoy to Russia Denies Interference in Afghanistan

LD2803170994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Uzbekistan observes UN norms and does not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. This was stated at a press conference in Moscow today by that country's ambassador in Russia, Yusuf Abdullayev. The statement was made in light of an accusation made against Uzbekistan by the Afghan president, whose representative recently visited Moscow. In particular, it was alleged that the Uzbek side was interfering in the internal Afghan conflict by supplying weapons to the forces of that country's rebel Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and his allies. The Uzbek diplomat rejected such an accusation and emphasized that what happened in Afghanistan was the internal affair of the Afghan people. At the same time, the ambassador confirmed that in accordance with agreements Uzbekistan was indeed rendering aid to the northern regions of Afghanistan. This aid, however, was purely civilian in character. Last year electric power to a value of \$14 million was supplied and about 100 joint Uzbek-Afghan enterprises were set up. This was reported by ITAR-TASS.

More on Abdullayev's Comments

LD2803190794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1454 GMT 28 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Uzbekistan does in no way interfere into the internal affairs of neighboring Afghanistan. "The Afghan allegations on this score cause sincere indignation in Tashkent," Uzbek ambassador to Russia Yusuf Abdullayev said at a news conference in Moscow Monday.

He recalled that Hikmat Abdurrahman, special envoy of the Afghan president, had recently paid a visit to Moscow where he visited, in particular, the Uzbek embassy. "The Afghan official expressed concern over some 'interference' into Afghan affairs by Tashkent and the secret talks that had allegedly taken place between Uzbek leaders and Uzbek General Rashid Dostam. Uzbekistan did receive Dostam last August but not as 'a rebel Afghan general' but as a special envoy of the Afghan president. The meetings were held officially and openly. There were no below the board dealings. All insinuations by the Afghan authorities are outrageous."

The Uzbek ambassador denied Abdurrahman's allegations that Tajik opposition fighters underwent training in Uzbekistan. Only a Martian cannot see that this is untrue. These inventions of the Afghan authorities cause surprise," Abdullayev said.

Abdullayev said that his country "faithfully observed the principle of respect for sovereignty of other countries and non-interference into their own affairs. Uzbekistan is an island of stability, calm and civic peace in the volatile Central Asian region. Resolving the Afghan situation is one of our primary concerns," Abdullayev declared.

He said that "the Soviet leaders ignored the lessons of the three Anglo-Afghan wars. As a result, the Soviet action there had an ignominious end. We have too many common roots with Afghanistan to forget such things. Nobody has succeeded in dismembering and subjugating Afghanistan. It would be strange if we tried this," the ambassador said.

He said that Uzbekistan had traditional good relations with Afghanistan's northern provinces inhabited chiefly by ethnic Uzbeks. "This is normal cooperation with neighbors which does not imply attempts at capturing the area," Abdullayev said.

In his words, "Uzbekistan's interference into Afghan affairs amounted to supplying \$13.8 Mn [million] worth of electricity to Afghanistan while 300 Afghan students graduated Uzbek universities free."

Asked by INTERFAX about the outlook for a settlement in Tajikistan, Abdullayev emphasized, "The sooner Dushanbe and opposition sit together, the better. We in Tashkent think that all parties in the conflict should be legitimately participants in the talks. Simultaneously Tajikistan should develop closer ties with its neighbors, otherwise no outside aid would be helpful."

He expressed the hope that Afghanistan would tangibly contribute to resolution of the Tajik crisis. "At least we would like to believe what Kabul officials say about this," he said.

Karimov Concerned Over Lack of Transformation in Industry

LD2803180294 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1451 GMT 28 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zhrebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Karimov considers as inefficient transformations in some republic's industries. Addressing in Tashkent the government meeting, he said that the chemical and machine-building industries are working inadequately.

The president has leveled criticism at the managers who believe that the disruption of economic ties among the Republics of the former Soviet Union is the reason for the production slump. He believes that these leaders do not take advantage of the economic possibilities opened lately due to the Republic's transfer to the free market relations and inadequately use the reserves and rich resources of Uzbekistan.

The president said negligent leaders of enterprises and industries have found a good niche. The president is particularly concerned by the fact that the nostalgic sentiments have not become a thing of the past in some places. Karimov believes that many leaders continue working without due account of peculiarities of the market and interests of the Republic. The president is sure that the use of outdated forms and methods makes it impossible to build a state with a great future.

Armenia

Knowledge of Iranian Statement on Plane Denied

LD2803202394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1932
GMT 28 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 28 TASS—Yerevan has not received an official statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry saying that the Iranian C-130 military cargo plane was shot down on March 17 by a missile "fired by Armenian troops deployed in Karabakh," an Armenian presidential staff official told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

He said neither the Armenian Foreign Ministry, nor the Armenian Embassy in Tehran had any information about the document. The Iranian Embassy in Yerevan also keeps silent.

Yerevan Says Azeris Suffer 'Crushing Defeat'

NC2803194894 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Army suffered a crushing defeat today on the eastern sector of the front during fierce battles waged in the direction of Agdam. The enemy was waging the battles with the support of armored cars, tanks and aircraft.

Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army press service reported that thanks to correctly organized defensive operations, the Karabakh formations managed to halt all the attacks of the Azerbaijanis and inflicted enormous losses in men and material on them. More than 10 enemy armored cars, including 6 tanks and three armored vehicles, were destroyed, and 150 soldiers and officers were killed.

One fighter was killed and four were injured on Karabakh side.

At noon, the enemy withdrew to its initial positions and peace was reestablished on this sector of the front.

No substantial changes have taken place in the rest of conflict zone since yesterday.

The Azerbaijani Army used Grad launchers, tanks and howitzers to shell Choratan, Artsvaberd, and Chinari in Tavushskiy Rayon starting at 1600 today. This was reported by the Armenian Defense Ministry press service. It also reported that casualty figures are being determined. Our border troops refrained from retaliating. No incidents have taken place in the rest of Armenia' border zones since last night.

Government To Trim Size, Merge Ministries

LD2803194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755
GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Armenia is shortly due to cut down the size of its government, informed sources close to the government told Interfax.

Thus, the Trade Ministry is to merge with the Ministry of Material Resources, the Economics Ministry with the Finance Ministry, the sources said.

The Agriculture Ministry should merge with the Procurement Ministry, and the Ministry of Higher Education with the Ministry of Public Education.

The Ministry of Light Industry is to be abolished and replaced with a department in the Ministry of Industry.

The aim of the reform is to raise the government's efficiency, the sources said.

Yerevan Reports Police Detain Baku Demonstrators

NC2803204594 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The opposition's planned rally in Baku on 26 March did not take place. It was to be led by Iskender Khamidov, the former interior minister, member of parliament, and leader of the Gray Wolves Party.

The police made detentions at the Freedom Square, among them ten reporters, including NEW YORK TIMES correspondent Thomas (Gols) who demanded to see a representative of the U.S. Embassy.

About 305,000 Azeri, Abkhaz Refugees Sheltered

LD2603152894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347
GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] As of date, Armenia gives roof to 305,000 refugees, 260,000 of which were deported from Azerbaijan and the rest—from Abkhazia and the Shaumyanski District of Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to chief Vladimir Movsisyan of the national Agency on the Affairs of Refugees, the deportees enjoy all the civic rights and freedoms but no special status. They are regarded as people without citizenship. The 16,000 people deported in 1988 from Sumgait, in Azerbaijan, have by now been provided with housing facilities or live in houses of their own. 28,000 deportees enjoy the right to permanent residency in Armenia and another 35,000 have been given plots of land.

Azerbaijan

Minister Invited to Greece To Discuss Karabakh

NC2803205394 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi
Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry press service reported that Karolos Papoulias, the foreign minister of Greece, which is the EU president for the current year, invited the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov to visit Athens for a briefing on the situation in the [Azerbaijani] Republic.

In his letter to his Azerbaijani counterpart, Mr. Papoulias said: I hope that your visit to Athens will enable the EU to have a more profound understanding of problems related to Nagorno-Karabakh, and raise the ties between our countries to a new level of development.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov met Belgian Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Willy Claes, who was the EU president for 1993, in Brussels last December and had expressed his desire to address EU members on situation in Azerbaijan. Gasan Gasanov also noted that in view of the fact there is no satisfactory information about Azerbaijan in the West and most of the time the existing information is not objective, the EU should use all its possibilities productively to obtain first-hand information. This proposal of the Azerbaijani foreign minister was examined by the relevant EU organs and approved.

Baku Aims at Integration With World Community

LD2803182694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1626
GMT 28 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindj Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku March 28 TASS—In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Hasan Hasanov described the characteristic features of his country's diplomacy at the present stage as pragmatism and an aspiration to establish partner-like relations with as many countries as possible. According to Hasanov, initially they plan to establish durable contacts with 60 countries. This is one-third of all the U.N. member states.

The head of the Azeri Foreign Affairs Department attributed special places in this list to contacts with the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France and China, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and arbiters in world politics. According to Hasan Hasanov, stable working ties have currently been established with four of the countries, excluding the U.S., and documents regulating bilateral relations on a normative-legal basis have been signed.

The minister emphasised that "in relations with Russia, an end has been put to the policy of mutual reproaches and accusations". He said to that, thanks to measures

adopted by the republic's new leadership, faults and instability in the relationship have been removed, old ties are being revived and new ones, especially trade and economic ones, are being established.

The second most important feature of the Azeri foreign policy, according to Hasan Hasanov, is the need to reassess his country's ties with the two neighbouring states of Turkey and Iran.

Although membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is approved in the republic, as relations with the CIS are relegated to third place Azerbaijan's foreign policy.

Membership in the CIS, which is considered here as one of the most authoritative interstate regional organizations, has helped the republic restore its ties with traditional economic partners, and has politically helped it ensure the protection of the republic's national interests.

Nagorno-Karabakh Reports Azeri Attack Defeated

LD2803194494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755
GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] According to the press service of the Nagorno-Karabakh army, the Monday attempt of Azeri forces to break through Karabakh defenses on the eastern section of the front (Agdam region) proved a complete failure.

At dawn Azeri armored forces backed by combat planes and helicopters launched an offensive along the entire eastern frontline.

"Thanks to skillful and efficient actions by Karabakh forces all the Azeri attacks were countered by 9 a.m. the enemy suffered great losses, especially in combat vehicles", the press service reported.

A spokesman for the press service claimed over 10 armored vehicles were destroyed, among them six T-72 tanks and three armored infantry vehicles. Losses in personnel on the Azeri side exceed 150 persons. On the Karabakh side losses were minimal: one man was killed and 14 were wounded. In the afternoon the Azeri forces were thrown back to their initial positions. Hostilities in that section stopped.

Noteworthy changes were not reported from other sections on Monday.

Armenian Shelling, Fighting Near Agdam Reported

NC2803194994 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi
Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry press service reported that Armenia's Armed Forces are continuing to shell the settlements in northwestern regions of Azerbaijan. The settlements in Tazskiy Rayon has been coming under fierce rocket and artillery fire from Choratan military base in Berd region of Armenia since this morning.

Armenia's occupationist army launched an attack on Agdamskiy front on 27 March. The brave fighters of the Azerbaijani Army managed to halt the enemy's offensive and then launched a counterattack and liberated Shirvanly and Karakashly in Agdamskiy Rayon. At present, the battles are continuing in the direction of Geoytepe 10 km north of Agdam. One enemy tank and a considerable number of troops were destroyed.

Our positions in Fizulinskiy Rayon also came under fire yesterday. Our fighters took countermeasures and silenced enemy's firing positions.

Georgia

Abkhazia Agrees on Talks at Russian Ministry

LD2803142194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1252 GMT 28 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Brykin]

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS—In response to the appeal of the Russian Government to resume talks between Abkhazia and Georgia on a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Abkhazian side reiterated its readiness for talks. The Abkhazian leadership has always favoured a political settlement of controversial problems, the press service of the Abkhazian mission in Russia reported today.

The Georgian side also expressed readiness to resume talks. According to the Abkhazian press service, consultations at the Russian Foreign Ministry will probably begin this week. From the Abkhazian side they will be attended by Anri Dzhergenia, personal representative of the chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, and Igor Abkha, official representative of the Republic of Abkhazia in Russia.

Abkhazia Inflicts Losses on Georgian 'Saboteurs'

LD2803134694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1253 GMT 28 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi March 28 TASS—The Abkhazian military has claimed that it finished an operation on neutralizing Georgian groups of saboteurs high in the mountains of the Kodor gorge.

According to a source in the Abkhazian Defence Ministry, the Georgian side lost three T-55 tanks, several anti-aircraft missile launchers and an armoured personnel carrier. The Abkhazians have seized a great number of automatic weapons.

"Life is returning back to normal in the mountain villages", the source said.

Battles Continue for Fourth Day in Gali Rayon

LD2803161394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers press service told the CONTACT news agency that fierce battles were under way for the fourth day in the Gali Rayon of the Kodori Gorge.

Deputy Prime Minister Avtandil Margiani and MP Jaba Ioseliani, the chairman of the Provisional Committee for Emergency Situations, are in the war zone.

The Abkhazian separatists have opened artillery fire on the civilian population of the villages of Sakeni, Azhara, Omarshara, and Gvandra.

Despite the complex meteorological conditions, it became possible to evacuate the wounded and women and children. Every measure has been taken to supply the region with medicine and foodstuffs.

Today, according to the information received by 1700, positional battles continued in the village of Zemo Lata. Separatists are getting additional manpower and combat equipment.

Everything is being done to repel the separatists' attacks.

Tbilisi Reports Casualties

LD2803165794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1514 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The press service of the Georgian head of state reports that as a result of continuous clashes instigated by the Gudauta separatists in the zone of [word indistinct] Svaneti, according to preliminary data, 10 people have been killed and 22 wounded on the Georgian side. The wounded are being carried to Kutaisi. [passage omitted]

Zugdidi Commander Issues Update

LD2803180094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Our correspondent this evening telephoned Zugdidi commander Adamia, who told us that all day it was quiet on the territory adjacent to the Abkhaz border, and the extremists did not attempt to cross over the Enguri. The situation on the eastern bank of the Enguri is being controlled by the Georgian military police.

Abkhazia: Georgian Troops 'Routed'

LD2803191494 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1637 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The Georgian armed formation that stayed in the mountains in Gulripsha region, Abkhazia "has been routed and no longer threatens the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi." The statement was made in a Monday interview with Interfax by the Abkhazian Defence Minister Sultan Sosnaliev.

At the Abkhazian Defence Ministry Interfax was told that Georgian troops are besieged in Azhara community in the mountains. Abkhazian forces also control the Kodori canyon.

Battles in Svanetia Reported

NC2803202994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1315 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, March 28 (SNARK)—In the Mountainous Svanetia positioning battles went on on March 28. On March 27 Georgian home guards offered resistance to Abkhazians at the battle near Kvemo-Lata village. Losses of Abkhazian side were 10 people.

According to the data of Georgian intelligence service the Abkhazian forces are strengthening their positions behind Inguri River. On the words of the wounded home guards Georgian villages are being shelled by "Grad" launcher.

SNARK was told about it by Mr. Klikadze, a deputy head of the Georgian Defence Ministry's press-center.

Shevardnadze, Others Comment

LD2903115594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said that the situation in the Kodori canyon where fighting resumed last week between the Georgian and Abkhazian units has stabilized somewhat.

Speaking in parliament Tuesday, he said that women and children have been evacuated from the canyon. However, the majority of the population do not want to leave their homes. This is another indication that the population in the Kodori canyon needs help.

Shevardnadze also said that on Monday on the line of confrontation between the Georgian and Abkhazian forces near the Inguri River there were local clashes, but on Tuesday morning the situation was calm.

Shevardnadze noted the intensification of Russia's mediatory efforts and also talked about Georgia's preparedness for talks for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Georgian Defense Ministry said Tuesday that fierce fighting continues in the Kodori canyon near the village of Zemo Lata. Abkhazian units are shelling Georgian positions. About a dozen Abkhazian helicopters airlifted additional manpower and armaments from Sukhumi.

The spokesman said that in the early hours of March 29 there were no positional changes in the zone of fighting. As many as five Georgian were killed and four wounded. According to the spokesman, Abkhazian casualties totalled sixty.

Deputy chairman of the Tbilisi-based pro-Georgian Council of Ministers of Abkhazia, Akaky Gasviani, confirmed to Interfax that the advancement of the Abkhazian formations and mercenaries towards the Kodori canyon had been stopped by the morning of March 28. Now the line of confrontation passes near the village of Verkhnyaya Lata, he said.

Gasviani said that the chairman of the temporary committee for the state of emergency Djaba Ioseliani visited the Georgian positions Monday.

So far Interfax does not have an Abkhazian version of what happened in the Kodori canyon.

Further Casualty Figures Reported

LD2903132394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] According to the Georgian Defense Ministry, the situation in Kodori Gorge remains tense. Fierce fighting is going on at the village of Zemo-Lata. As before, the Georgian positions are being subjected to fire from artillery and tank weapons and mortars. The Defense Ministry reports that during the night Georgian losses amounted to five killed and four wounded. More than 50 were killed on the Abkhazian side.

Delegation Head Cited on Purpose of NATO Mission

PM2803153394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Dmitriy Pavshentsev: "NATO Mission to Tbilisi"]

[Text] Tbilisi—A special NATO delegation led by the Turkish diplomat Tugay Asceni, Turkish permanent representative to the North Atlantic bloc, has arrived in Tbilisi. As David Sumbadze, state counselor in the apparatus of the head of state, told your PRAVDA correspondent, "the visit's purpose is to discuss the conditions for Georgia's participation in the NATO 'Partnership for Peace' program, to which Georgian Foreign Minister A. Chikvaide added his signature the previous evening. The program will help to establish close military cooperation and to attract experts to Georgia to put together the military budget. The plans also envisage joint military exercises. It is possible that cadres for the Georgian Army will be trained in NATO countries."

Shevardnadze, Cabinet Discuss Economic Issues

LD2803181494 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1645 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Head of state Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday held a meeting with heads of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers. They discussed the delayed repayment of debt to Turkmenistan for supplying Georgia with gas. The sum is in excess of \$150 million.

Other issues of an economic and industrial nature were discussed during the session, and, in particular, ways were sought for strengthening the Georgian coupon and prospects were discussed for restoring the republic's former economic links and the revival of the old branches of its industrial complex.

In his address to the session, Eduard Shevardnadze especially stressed the necessity for bringing wages in line with prices in the country and assigning the government to set up a working group that will in one week work out a program for economic transformation during the present stage.

Cabinet Ratifies Air Communication Agreements

*AU2703173894 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA
in Georgian 17 Mar 94 p 1*

["Information from the Government House"]

[Text] By a decree of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers:

The Agreement on International Air Communications concluded between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Russian Federation on 8 October 1993 has been ratified.

The proposal of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs on ratification of the intergovernmental agreement between the Republic of Georgia and Turkmenistan concluded on 17 August 1993 "on international air communications between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of Turkmenistan" has been adopted.

The proposal of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs on ratification of the intergovernmental agreement between the Republic of Georgia and Ukraine

concluded on 13 April 1993 "on international air communications between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of Ukraine" has been adopted.

The Agreement on International Air Communications concluded between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan concluded on 3 February 1993 in Baku has been ratified.

The Agreement on International Air Communications between the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Armenia concluded on 19 May 1993 in Yerevan has been ratified.

Refugees Urged Not To Try To Return to Homes

*LD2803164294 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in
Georgian 1600 GMT 28 Mar 94*

["Statement" issued by the Provisional Committee for the Emergency Situation in West Georgia on 28 March]

[Text] Despite numerous warnings from the local bodies of the Provisional Committee for the Emergency Situation in West Georgia, some groups and individuals from the population forcibly displaced last November and December made willful decisions to return to their homes, which ended tragically.

Abkhaz separatists killed, insulted, and robbed thousands of people. According to the recent information, certain people are still calling on the refugees from the Gali Rayon and other parts of Abkhazia to return to their homes in Abkhazia.

The provisional committee is making this authoritative statement urging people not to be guided by such provocations. The committee warns categorically all forcibly displaced persons to stop entering the territory occupied by the separatists until the government adopts a relevant resolution.

Estonia**Legislators Told Withdrawal Pact May Harm Talks***WS2803200894 Tallinn BNS in English 1801 GMT
28 Mar 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 28, BNS—The agreement on social protection for military pensioners, which Russia and Latvia initialed, may complicate the course of Estonian-Russian negotiations, Parliament Speaker Ulo Nugis said today after a meeting with a Latvian Saeima (parliament) delegation in Tallinn.

The parliamentary press service told BNS the principal objective of the Latvian delegation was to coordinate positions on key questions of the Estonian-Russian and the Latvian-Russian negotiations. Latvia and Russia initialed an agreement on military pensioners that perplexed Estonian politicians. Since the troop withdrawal agreements must be ratified in the parliament, the Latvian Saeima delegation wanted to find out Estonia's standpoint on the pensioners' issue.

In Nugis' opinion, the Latvian MPs "would have liked to take advantage of Estonia's critical position to build up a similar attitude in the Latvian parliament." Nugis stated, however, that Estonia will not officially condemn Latvia's position.

"This is Latvia's domestic issue, but we don't rule out that it may complicate the future course of Estonian-Russian negotiations," Nugis said. "Estonia, however, is not going to change its position or make any concessions on this issue," the parliament speaker emphasized.

In Nugis' words, the standpoints of the Estonian delegation for talks with Russia are consistent with the aliens law, which regulates also the problems of social guarantees for the retired Russian military, and the citizenship law.

"Latvia at present lacks analogous legislation," Nugis noted.

The Latvian Saeima delegation met also with Prime Minister Mart Laar and Rein Helme, chairman of the parliamentary National Defense Commission.

The delegation included Maris Budovskis, chairman of the Saeima Credentials Committee and the Baltic Assembly Presidium; Juris Sienka, chairman of the Baltic Assembly foreign affairs committee and a member of the Latvian delegation for talks with Russia; Romans Apistis, a member of the Saeima Law Enforcement Commission; and Baltic Assembly secretary Ance Anteniske.

The meeting between the Latvian delegation and Nugis touched on the next session of the Baltic Assembly scheduled for May in Riga, as well as the initialing and ratifying of a cooperation agreement between the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg).

Officials React to Russia's 'Economic War'*LD2903100994 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in
Estonian 0900 GMT 29 Mar 94*

[Text] The government is of the opinion that Russia has begun an economic war against the Baltic states. The government's press service states that beginning 15 March, Russia implemented extremely high customs tariffs on Estonian, Latvian and Estonian [as received] goods, tariffs that are double what has to be paid on other countries' goods. Instructions to this end were issued by a Russian Federation state committee on 11 March. Riigikogu economic commission chairman Ivar Raig, thinks that Estonia should raise the issue at the international level, while Prime Minister Mart Laar thinks that an economic war against the Baltic states will harm Russia first and foremost because a lot of agricultural produce will not be supplied.

Commenting on the Russian decision, the prime minister regrets that Russia does not want constructive and good-neighborly relations with the Baltic states. Foreign Minister Juri Luik is amazed that Russia would implement discriminatory customs duty payments against other countries, as it has voiced a desire to become a member of GATT, the international trade agreement. Juri Luik stated that this is in sharp contrast with GATT principles.

According to Prime Minister Laar the Russian decision to double customs duty on Baltic goods in comparison to goods from other European countries has demonstrated that the course adopted by the Estonian Government to orientate the Estonian economy toward the West is the only correct one. He stated that Estonia is not dependent on Russia, and for this reason Estonia has nothing to fear. Those few producers who, as the government press release notes, orientated themselves unilaterally toward the eastern market must, according to Laar, simply reorganize their production.

Paldiski Inhabitants Registered*WS2803185994 Tallinn ETA in English 1635 GMT
28 Mar 94*

["News Release"]

[Text] According to the preliminary results of registering of inhabitants conducted in the north western Estonian town Paldiski, a former Russian submarine training base, over six thousand people live there, Estonian Minister of Population Peeter Olesk told ETA on Monday [28 March].

In the course of registration that lasted from March 22 to 25, 3,684 registration questionnaires were fulfilled. In addition, a list of 892 Russian military and their families is in the possession of Estonian Government. Children up to 16 years were inscribed in the questionnaires of their parents and their exact amount, estimated at about one thousand, will be clear after the questionnaires are analysed. Another thousand people did not, for some reason, appear at the registration. Olesk added that

people that did not register themselves will have difficulties in moving in the town when the dismantling work of the nuclear reactor at the former military base will start and people that do not have a registering inscription in their documents or do not possess a special permission to be in the town, will be detained until their identification is determined.

Up to now the exact number and composition of population in Paldiski, largely inhabited by non-Estonian population and Russian military, was not known, for the former town authorities, subject to Russian military authorities and dissolved by a law adopted by Estonian Riigikogu [parliament] on March 9, refused to hand over data on the subject.

Envoy to EU Says Free Trade Talks 'Successful'
WS2903120194 Tallinn ETA in English 0713 GMT
29 Mar 94

[From RAHVA HAAL 29 Mar p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 60/94]

[Text] The EU-Estonian free trade talks in Brussels were successful and the main text of the agreement has been agreed upon, Estonian Ambassador to the EU Clyde Kull said.

Both parties recognise in the preamble that the final aim of the agreement is Estonia's full integration to the EU. The free trade regime on industrial goods as well as general trade and customs principles have been agreed upon and the negotiations have reached the most sensitive subjects - textile and agriculture, Kull went on. He added that the EU had made some concessions concerning possible use of customs duties by Estonia.

The experts are to meet in Tallinn on April 12-13, while the next meeting of the delegations is to take place in Brussels on April 27.

Latvia

Russians To Hand Over Daugavpils Fortress in Apr

WS2803195794 Tallinn BNS in English 1559 GMT
28 Mar 94

[Text] Daugavpils, Latvia, Mar 28, BNS—The Russian Armed Forces will hand over the Daugavpils fortress to the local authorities in mid-April, the city's deputy mayor, Grigori Merkuryev, told reporters.

The fortress housed the High School of Aviation Engineers, which was sent Russia in August, 1993. The compound, which includes living houses, store houses and fuel depots, is still guarded by a 200-men unit.

The both parties have already coordinated the terms of handover, said Merkuryev. Under the draft agreement, the Russian Defense Ministry will temporary continue the ownership of the living houses.

Parties, Groups Appeal Against Signing Pact
WS2803154694 Tallinn BNS in English 0953 GMT
28 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Riga, Mar 28, BNS—Latvia's parliament and non-parliament right parties keep protesting the anticipated troop withdrawal treaty between Latvia and Russia what they call is legalizing of Soviet occupation of the Baltic country. [passage omitted]

On March 26, several parties and public organizations reiterated that, in their opinion, the agreement undermines Latvia's security and sovereignty, and pressured President Guntis Ulmanis not to sign the document.

The Saeima (parliament) should never ratify the agreement in the present edition, they said.

The group includes the Latvian National Independence Movement, the Tēvzeme (Fatherland) National Association and the Latvian Popular Front.

The National Independence Movement (LNNK) urged Ulmanis not to confirm the draft because "the signature of these agreements would mean Latvia's enclosure into the sphere of Russian interests, endanger Latvian sovereignty and chances for the national survival."

The initialed agreements contradict the CSCE and UN declarations on the complete and unconditional withdrawal of ex-Soviet troops, according to the statement. The accord on Skrunda was, in fact, reached by the presidents of the United States and Russia without consent of Latvian citizens.

"Accepting the initialed agreements, Latvia actually fails to resolve issues connected with troop withdrawal" while "armed Russian servicemen may freely move in the Latvian territory, thus, posing a threat to the Baltic security," said the document.

LNNK wants the Saeima (parliament) to first adopt a law on the status of aliens and stateless persons, foreign policy concept and an appeal to the United Nations on the occupation of the Baltic states in 1940.

Letting occupation army officers stay here, Latvia voluntarily gives up its earlier claim for the recognition of its occupation. By doing so, Latvia also lifts the responsibility for Soviet-era damages of Russia, the party said.

The Saeima should form a new negotiation team for talks with Russia to tackle withdrawal issues, repatriation of former Soviet colonists, return of the Abrene (now Pitalovo, Russia) district to Latvia and compensation for occupation damages.

LNNK also wants to Saeima to accept its proposal for the organization of nationwide referendum on the functioning of the Skrunda radar after all Russian troops leave Latvia. The attitude of Latvian citizens toward granting social guarantees to retired Russian military persons would be another question at the referendum.

If the Saeima rejects these demands, LNNK will propose extraordinary Saeima elections.

Similar demands are included in a statement by Fatherland's congress. Association member, MP Roberts Milbergs described the document as "a document of despair" saying that the issue (of the ratification of Latvian-Russian accord) is actually determined.

Popular Front's board member Juris Kokins told BNS that, if the international community recognized Latvia's occupation in 1940, Latvia could turn for help to international organizations.

Fatherland plans to stage a rally March 29 at the Cabinet building to protest signature and ratification of the Latvian-Russian agreements. The Cabinet is scheduled to look through the initialed documents on the same day.

Lithuania

Minister Views Areas of Dispute With Russia

PM2803144994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys in Vilnius by Nikolay Lashkevich; date not given: "Lithuania Does Not Claim Kaliningrad Lands, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys Says"]

[Text] Kaliningrad Oblast, which is separated from the motherland by hundreds of kilometers of Lithuanian territory, has become a source of tension between Lithuania and Russia.

The people of Kaliningrad complain about the border and customs barriers being erected by Lithuanian functionaries, and of the problems of providing the oblast with all the essentials; the Lithuanians complain of the militarization of the oblast, and some influential Lithuanian politicians are unable to renounce territorial claims.

But what is the stance of official Vilnius on the "Kaliningrad question"? Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys replies to IZVESTIYA.

[Gylys] First of all I wish to officially state that we have no territorial claims against Russia. We do not aspire to Kaliningrad lands. The position of the Lithuanian leadership should be separated from that of individual politicians. The problem lies elsewhere—the oblast is one of the most militarized regions in Europe and perhaps in the world. Therefore, I hope, Russia will understand our concern. Lithuania would like to have guarantees of its security. On the other hand, Russia is undoubtedly seeking to maintain vital links with Kaliningrad Oblast.

[Lashkevich] The problems of the transit of Russian Army troop trains, it would appear, could seriously spoil relations between the two countries. Everyone well remembers incidents of troop trains being delayed on the Lithuanian border. In this way suspicion, wariness, and

ill-will arise. It is obvious that the issue of the transportation of military equipment and arms from Kaliningrad Oblast and back should be resolved urgently.

[Gylys] We have received proposals from Russia on this account. They are being discussed. The main thing is that these military transit shipments should not present any danger for us, either on the criminal level (contraband and trade in narcotics, weapons, and metals) or on the ecological or political levels. Let me stress that Lithuania, in advocating the demilitarization of the oblast, opposes the use of pressure, let alone threats, in official policy. We do not feel any aggressive aspirations from Russia or any real threat from that country, and we hope that Russia will adhere to the concomitant tactics of political behavior.

[Lashkevich] Russian citizens complain of the difficulties they experience while traveling through Lithuanian territory. I have seen letters from Kaliningraders denouncing the arbitrary behavior of Lithuanian customs officers and functionaries. What does Lithuania plan to do to ensure that obstacles are not placed in the way of the free movement of citizens?

[Gylys] Inhabitants of Kaliningrad Oblast can travel to our country without visas—on the basis of residence in Kaliningrad Oblast, which is indicated on their identity cards. It is possible that visas will be introduced in the future, but here too there are plans to alleviate the transit problems of Kaliningraders; we will perhaps introduce a system of annual visas. It is not in our interests to close the borders. Kaliningrad trains include separate "Lithuanian railcars," in which railroad officials try not to accommodate transit passengers. These cars are inspected, but the others are not. However, today we are not guaranteed against people without documents, in pursuit of self-seeking goals, including of a criminal character, alighting in Lithuania by making use of the transit line. There are already examples involving arms smuggling. In the case in question our delegations need to reach agreement on the technical questions. This concerns also the movement of economic freight.

[Lashkevich] Until now it appeared that Lithuania would avoid the fate of its Baltic neighbors, which are quarreling with Russia over border posts. However, the example of the conflict situation over the DF-6 oil deposit near Nida covered recently by IZVESTIYA suggests the reverse....

[Gylys] As far as borders on dry land are concerned, both sides are essentially close to signing the relevant agreements. But in the Baltic Sea.... Here our positions greatly differ. We hope that the forthcoming round of talks will help to settle this dispute. What worries us? Russia has begun oilfield development work and thereby presented Lithuania with a fait accompli—the deposit is ours, they claim. Meanwhile work has begun in the disputed region. Let me stress, I would not wish to declare that this section of the sea belongs to Lithuania, but I would not like to prematurely recognize it as belonging to Russia.

This is yet another hotbed of tension which could rouse political passions in our country. Let us first resolve the juridical aspect of this question, and then, if the need arises, tackle the exploitation of the deposit.

[Lashkevich] You constantly call for the negotiations process to be intensified. But talks are proceeding very lethargically. Why is this? What are the immediate prospects for dialogue?

[Gyls] We must place dialogue on a firm, permanent footing. We are ready to talk to Russia on any topic, and will strictly uphold our obligations. But what is stopping Russia from responding on a mutual basis is not for me to judge. In November, as is well known, we signed a treaty on most-favored-nation status in trade. And what happened? It does not need ratification. All that is needed is to exchange diplomatic notes on the fulfillment of treaty obligations. Russia did not send its note. I cannot rule out that political passions will soon flare up in Lithuania and people will begin to say: Here we see the true face of Russia. This is not to the benefit of our relations.

Brazauskas Holds News Conference on Baltic Summit

WS2903095394 Vilnius ELTA in English 0327 GMT 29 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 466]

[Text] Vilnius, March 28, ELTA—President Algirdas Brazauskas told a news conference on Monday [28 March] the co-ordination of actions of the three Baltic presidents was a necessary condition to get closer to the political, economical and security structures of Europe.

A lot of attention in the meeting of the three presidents was paid at the co-operation with Visegrad countries.

Estonian President Lennart Meri offered a concept "Northern-Southern axis". This would mean a formula "5+3+4" (five Nordic, three Baltic and four Visegrad states). Estonian and Latvian presidents appreciated ratification of Lithuanian-Polish international treaty. This agreement is a step towards Europe, especially that Poland is an associate member of the European Union. Those who contradict signing of the treaty with Polish President Lech Walesa in April in Vilnius, are serving the isolationist policies.

Estonian and Lithuanian presidents also appreciated ratification of four Latvian-Russian agreements. Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis told the summit there were various as well as contrary opinions about them. The step made by Latvia may be useful also for Estonia which is to begin a new round of talks with Russia in April, Brazauskas said.

Although the Baltic presidents confirmed an agreement on their regular summits and co-ordinated activity, the Baltic council was not created. Such a council, similar to

the Nordic Council, should involve broader - parliamentary and governmental - structures.

They agreed to arrange agreements on various issues, e.g. a free trade agreement which is to come into force in April 1. On the governmental level, an agreement on social guarantees for citizens of any Baltic state working or studying in the other Baltic state, will be arranged.

Brazauskas Rejects 'Genocide' Charges

LD2803192894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] In his traditional Monday interview to the Lithuanian radio, President Brazauskas has expressed indignation over Western media-made accusations of Jewish genocide against the whole Lithuanian nation. Mr. Brazauskas said that every nation had its own criminals, but nobody can accuse and describe a whole nation as a criminal entity. This was the underlying principle of international law and everyone must keep to it, said the Lithuanian president.

Mr. Brazauskas stressed that the Jewish genocide was organized and carried out by Nazi Germany on occupied territories. Therefore, Mr. Brazauskas did not see the Lithuanian nation as the initiator of the mass murder of the Jews. It is true that 8,000 Lithuanians had participated in the mass killing of Jews, but compared to the Lithuanian population of 3 million in those times, the total percentage of war criminals was very small. Mr. Brazauskas pointed out that 700 out of 50,000 persons were refused rehabilitation papers, while five rehabilitations were annulled after additional information had been received by the prosecutor's office.

Envoy to Russia Discusses Legal Treaties

WS2903121494 Tallinn BNS in English 0850 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 28, BNS—Ratification of Lithuanian-Russian treaties by the Russian parliament was discussed in Moscow last Friday [25 March] at a meeting between Romualdas Kozyrovicius, Lithuanian ambassador to Russia, and Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Russian Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian parliament.

The two discussed possibilities to ratify in the Russian parliament an agreement on mutual legal assistance and a consular convention, both of which were signed in Lithuania in 1992 and have already been ratified by the Lithuanian parliament.

Lithuanian and Russian officials also exchanged views on the implementation of a bilateral agreement on the most favored nation trade status and prospects to expand the Kaliningrad free economy zone.

Podoprigora said the legal assistance treaty and the consular convention will be included among the priority treaties to be ratified by the Russian lawmakers.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Nicaragua
WS2503124794 Tallinn BNS in English 1913 GMT
24 Mar 94

[Text] Nicaragua became the 90th country to establish or to restore diplomatic relations with Lithuania, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said.

Anicetas Simutis, Lithuania's ambassador to the United Nations, and Erich Vilchez Asher [name as received], assistant head of the Nicaraguan mission at the United Nations, signed a communique in New York Wednesday [23 March] on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

After the signing ceremony, the two ambassadors expressed hope that the two countries will develop friendly and mutually beneficial relations.

Ex-Minister Issues Statement Accusing Prosecutor

WS2903111794 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian
23 Mar 94 No. 56 p 4

[Statement by former Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius to Lithuanian Prosecutor General A. Paulauskas, issued 21 March; under the "Opinions" rubric]

[Text] To Lithuanian Prosecutor General A. Paulauskas

I have found out that seeking to conduct a search in my apartment, authorities twice searched the home of my sister-in-law in Vilnius, Ciurlionis Str. 86-92. Currently, I keep some of my personal things there while away for my studies in Great Britain. I am surprised and indignant that both searches were carried out with the following aims: "To find and retrieve documents linked with the purchase of military facilities, as well as arms, notes, and so on, and to find and retrieve documents bearing importance to the case, as well as arms, ammunition, and explosives."

These motives for searches surprise me and cause my justified indignation. You, as prosecutor general of the Republic of Lithuania, should know as well as myself that I did not commit any crimes as defense minister. These are not my speculations or wishes to you, but demands of Lithuanian laws to those officials who must institute criminal proceedings and conduct the investigation if there is a sufficient legal basis for this. Before bringing the action No. 09-02-005-94 against me on the abuse and negligence of my duties in acquiring arms, you had to make certain whether there had really been any proof of crime in my actions as national defense minister, and whether there was enough evidence to justify such a conviction. Therefore, before undertaking the

investigation, you had to conduct a thorough examination and begin proceedings only after that. Without performing this, but by conducting searches, you insulted my honor and dignity as a Lithuanian citizen and a former responsible state official. You did not even talk to me.

Instituting ungrounded proceedings, you have completely lost the feeling of legal responsibility and your behavior follows the rules of the recent party elite and nomenklatura—give us a person and we will find a law to punish him. Do you need to be reminded, Mr. Prosecutor, that those times have passed? Unfortunately, all events in this case have shown that you do not follow the legal requirements of the Republic of Lithuania in your work. Therefore, by ordering the conduct of searches, you had no legal justification to think that the aforementioned apartments contained the evidence of the crime unknown to you, but which is already under way, and things received or acquired in a criminal manner or documents that could be important for the criminal proceedings instituted by you.

I state openly and publicly that your actions against me are unlawful. Since the current institutions of supreme power in the Republic of Lithuania, which appointed you prosecutor general, are clearly indulgent to you and do not react to my requests, I will be forced to defend myself from your arbitrary moves as from criminal actions by all legal means, including extreme ones. At the same time, I warn you that it is you who will have to bear the responsibility for all consequences, as well as those who tolerate your self-will which I qualify as directed against the Lithuanian state and its interests rather than me.

To prevent such actions, I request that you immediately stop the proceedings and all persecutions linked with them, and return all my things confiscated during the illegal searches.

I am ready to give explanations in a legal manner, comment on documents, and explain the complicated procedure of acquiring arms not as a criminal but as former national defense minister of the Republic of Lithuania.

At the same time, I reserve the right to comment publicly on the actions of officials sent by you, who, in defiance of the law, also did everything to justify your arbitrary behavior under the cover of legal proceedings.

[Signed] Audrius Butkevicius, former Lithuanian national defense minister and signatory of the Declaration on the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence.

[Dated] 21 March 1994